



AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

Volume XXII Number 37

September 16, 1999

Thanks To Riverside Park...

Renovations And New Sign At Borgatti Field

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

A perfect late-summer afternoon served as the backdrop for the rededication of the recreation area bearing his name as Edward G. Borgatti, Sr., with the help of his grandson, 2½ year-old Michael Reed, cut the ribbon to officially declare the children's play area open for business.

While Monday afternoon's ribbon-cutting ceremony may have been the official invitation for moms and dads to bring their children to the River Road park, neighbors of the park, as well as town residents from as far away as the outskirts of Feeding Hills, have been enjoying the new playscape, the wooden train, and the new swing sets from the day each piece was installed.

Town Councilor Robert Young, who serves on the Recreation Assessment Committee with his wife, Karla, said his youngsters, 2½ year-old twins Brooks and Brianna, and 15 month-old Brent, have been spending several mornings a week enjoying the new attractions at Borgatti Field ever since they were installed.

"As soon as we knew the equipment was in place through our work on the Recreation Committee, my wife has been bringing the children here several times a week," Young said. "My wife comes early and by mid-morning, the place is packed with mothers and young children."

And that is just what the park's namesake hopes will continue at the park he was instrumen-



EDWARD G. BORGATTI (far left), with his daughter, Shelley (Borgatti) Reed, grandson, Michael Edward Reed, and son, Ed Borgatti, Jr., in front of the new sign for Borgatti Field. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Monday, September 13th, to rededicate the recreation area and commemorate the official opening of its various renovations. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

SEE BORGATTI - Page 7...

Playscape Dedications In Agawam...



ON SEPT. 7TH, dedication ceremonies took place for the playscapes at the four elementary schools. IN LEFT PHOTO: At Robinson Park - front row; Council Pres. Donald Rheault, Parks & Rec. Dir. Christopher Sparks, School Comm. members Suzan Pettazzoni and Roberta Doering, Mayor Johnson, Stephanie Bertagnolli (Robinson's PTO Pres.), Debbie Sekula, Melanie Sapelli, Margaret Timmons, and Robinson Principal William Sapelli; back row - students from Mrs. Aspden's first-grade class. IN RIGHT PHOTO: At Granger School - Rheault, Johnson, Doering, Granger Principal Phyllis Lewis, and Sparks. (See story and related photos in "Education.") Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

Editorial...**“A Piece Of My Mind”
(... As If I Can Spare It)**by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

I like to think I'm the first person to admit a mistake. All right, all right, so maybe I am the second or third person to admit my own mistakes. But, at least I take ownership ... eventually ... grudgingly, perhaps.

It seems as if one word in a front-page headline in *The AAN* two weeks ago and a mistaken use of the word in the body of the article may have misled some members of the public, as well as some Town Councilors.

The offending word was *proposes*. The headline should have read *Mayor Johnson Achieves Property Tax Cut* and a phrase in the lead paragraph stating the Mayor was proposing to apply excess revenue from the Berkshire Power project to the tax levy, thereby resulting in a significant property tax cut, was just plain wrong. There was nothing “proposed” about lowering the tax levy. That was already accomplished and a tax cut had already been achieved.

Deciding how much new growth revenue to spend and how much to apply toward keeping a lid on the tax levy is part of the Mayor's job, not the council's.

The only action being asked of the council at last week's meeting was, in effect, how to distribute that tax cut between the residential and commercial taxpayers.

It is understandable that members of the public could have been misled by my inaccurate use of the words “proposes” and “is proposing.”

Surely it is not too much to expect that the councilors themselves understood the concept of setting the residential tax factor (as the way the

council demonstrates its philosophy on easing some of the property tax burden on homeowners by shifting a specified percentage of the tax rate to the commercial class).

That's the sole significance of the residential tax factor — and the sole significance of last week's 9-1 vote supporting the Mayor's *proposed* shifting of half the amount allowed by the state, as the council has done for the last 10 years.

So, why the complaints that the tax factor numbers were sent to the council too late for a meaningful discussion of the prudence of a tax cut when there is a long list of needs still facing the community?

And some councilors appeared to believe they were voting on a tax cut, when they certainly should have known that their impact on the tax rate comes during their annual consideration of the *proposed* town operating budget sent to them by the Mayor in late spring every year.

That's when the council decides whether to accept, reject, or cut the Mayor's budget. How much spending the council approves is their contribution to setting the tax rate, and that's when they get the chance to vote for a tax increase or a tax cut.

Oh, yeah, and for those who complained that Berkshire Power received too much credit for the tax cut, let's think about this. Before Berkshire Power: no \$850,000 supplemental town budget, no tax cut. After Berkshire Power: an \$850,000 supplemental town budget *and a tax cut*. This is not exactly rocket science, folks.

petition of MR. & MRS. ROBERT MARTIN, who are seeking relief from Section 180-27, of the Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of a single family residential structure with less than the required frontage and lot size at the premises identified as: LOTS NO. 126 & 127, MAR-DALE AVENUE.

Doreen Prouty,
Acting Chairperson

Published: September 16, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999 at 6:30 P.M., for all parties interested in the

Fire Wise...by Fire Chief David Pisano
Six Steps For Survival

Many homes fires happen at night, between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., while most of us are sleeping. Make sure your family can protect itself by knowing these six steps:

1. Smoke detectors should be installed on each level of your home and outside sleeping areas. If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install a detector in the bedroom. Smoke detectors sound an early warning while escape is still possible. Test detectors monthly and replace batteries annually.

2. Have a home fire escape plan. Draw out your home on paper and mark at least two exits from each room. Make plans for family members that may need assistance, the very young or old. If exits include windows, make sure they can be easily opened; and if they're high, have escape ladders available. Designate a place for everyone to meet once they get outside.

3. Practice your plan. Have one practice with family members using their primary exit, and another where the secondary way out is used. If necessary, make changes. Fire drills aren't just for school.

4. If possible, sleep with bedroom doors closed. In the event of a home fire, they can hold back smoke and fire, increasing your time for escape.

5. When awakened by your smoke detector, roll out of bed and crawl to your bedroom door. Test the door with the back of your hand, for heat. Feel it high, low, and touch the knob. If the door is hot, DO NOT open it, and use your secondary exit to escape. If it is cool, open it carefully and be ready to slam it shut if there is smoke or fire.

6. Go to your designated meeting place. Have someone go to a neighbor's to call the fire department (911). Once you're outside, you should never go back into a burning building.

For more information on home fire survival, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

ADVERTISER NEWS**SCOTT M. HIBBERT****Attorney at Law****EXPERIENCE
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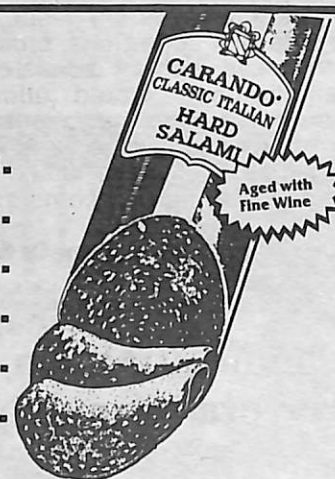
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Letters To The Editor

Bus Stop In Neighborhood Would Eliminate Safety Issues

To The Editor:

To Dr. Ameruso, Superintendent Of Schools:

We are writing this letter in regards to the several kindergartners in our neighborhood. These kindergartners are considered "walkers" to Granger Elementary School.

We have been told that we are considered a walking district because the end of Hendom Drive is within 1.5 miles of Granger School. We are aware that this area has sidewalks, and the school system has provided a crossing guard at Hamar Street across from Granger School. Has anyone ever walked from the Hendom, Elmar, and Independence Street neighborhoods at 8:00 a.m.? This route involves walking the sidewalk adjacent to a well-traveled Route 187.

We have been encouraged to carpool with other neighborhood families. Doesn't this cause increased traffic congestion and safety issues at our school?

We were verbally given a second opinion in regards to my son arriving to school. We were informed to have a fourth-grader escort my son to school. The usual age of a fourth-grader is nine years-old. Even the Department of Social Services considers a nine year-old, supervising a five year-old, inappropriate.

We have witnessed the recklessness of some of the morning commuters. On the second day of school, a pickup truck ignored the crossing guard's stop sign and proceeded through the crosswalk. On this occasion, luckily, there were no fatalities. We are aware that other school districts use barrels, cones, and flashing lights to alert commuters of the school zone. Why is this not possible for Granger School?

We have spoken to several people regarding adding a bus route to the Hendom, Elmar, and Independence neighborhoods. We were informed this neighborhood is within 1.5 miles of Granger School. This same area is afforded transportation for kindergartners returning from their half day of school. If the school system is able to provide bus transportation one way, why can it not provide transportation both ways?

The school system needs to evaluate the safety of sidewalk conditions, crossing areas, and poorly marked school zones. A bus stop in our neighborhood would eliminate these safety issues. We hope the school system and the Town of Agawam can resolve these issues before any fatalities occur. We would appreciate a written response to our concerns as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
John D. & Kimberly A. Conway
Feeding Hills

Commenting On Kasparian's Mayoral Campaign Strategy

To The Editor:

After reading the "Campaign '99" report/self-promotional "free ad" regarding Abe Kasparian's "Mayoral Campaign Kick-Off," I had to ask the big question — "WHO ARE YOU KIDDING, ABE?"

First, there's the picture of good ol' Abe in a bar on the Cape referring to his "Eastern Campaign Coordinator" — I mean, are people in Yarmouth really that concerned about Abe or Agawam's politics?

But more importantly, what's the "payola-for-votes" scheme all about? Are we to believe that Abe is actually intending to BUY his way into office? I somehow think there are laws against this practice.

Now, I've spoken with Abe in the past and, yes, he is a likeable sort (although difficult to get away from!) But after the offbeat notion of building the next Patriots stadium somewhere off Route 57; his numerous failed attempts to re-enter the political arena after the dissolution of county government; and now, wild, "schlockie" claims of "paying back" the residents of Agawam with \$5 per vote (in a successful primary bid), \$10 (for winning the actual election!), and the \$250 tax rebate (never mind the Town Council — Abe can get you around them with a special property tax reassessment), I'd say that it's time for Abe to get real and also get out of politics before he embarrasses himself — and out town — any further.

Gary Winn
Feeding Hills

Bitzas & Family Congratulate Jack Devine On His Retirement

To The Editor:

Last Sunday, my wife and I were honored to attend a wonderful retirement party to honor Jack Devine and thank him for the many years of service to the Town of Agawam.

About 300 friends of Jack were on hand to pay tribute to him. I would like to say a few words through the newspaper that Jack served so well.

I have known Jack and his family since my son, Peter, who is now in college, began playing Pioneer Valley Soccer for Jack's son-in-law, Bruce Theriaque. We have spent much time watching Jack's grandson, Brad, and my son, Peter, grow up on the soccer field. The time really went by so quickly.

Through the years, my wife and I have gotten to know Jack and his wonderful family. They certainly have a closeness and a love for each other and that is obvious to anyone who knows them.

I also know Jack as an elected official. He has always been very professional when carrying out his duties for *The Agawam Advertiser*. Jack was always there, on time, to cover a story or an event. He never said "no" to anyone's request. Seven days a week, he was always available.

Jack's photographs in *The Agawam Advertiser* gave us all the local news and events in a glance.

His pictures also made the paper interesting and personal. They say that a "picture is worth a thousand words" and it's true, Jack. When I moved to Agawam 20 years ago, I bought the paper for the first time and saw all of those pictures. I multiplied those pictures by a thousand words and I learned the English vocabulary overnight, Jack.

Jack, you have had Agawam and its people in your heart when you were out there with your cameras, every day, even holidays, rain or shine, day or night. Jack, you must already know that Agawam has you in its heart.

My family and I wish you many healthy and happy years to enjoy your retirement. Thank you for all of your years of service to our community and for your friendship.

Sincerely,
George Bitzas
Agawam City Councilor

The "Ground Work" Is There For Street Acceptance Process

To The Editor:

After reading several letters and articles in your newspaper in regards to street acceptances, I felt the need to respond to those who may not understand the issues or the process of street acceptance.

When the voters adopted the council/manager form of government in the early 70's, the town's by-laws needed to be converted to city ordinances. An ordinance for accepting streets slipped through the cracks, and this became a major issue for me and when I ran for office and won in 1981. There had not been any streets accepted by Agawam since 1970 when the form of government changed.

Street acceptance was one of my top priorities. Working with the Agawam legal staff, DPW, and Planning Board, the ordinances and regulations for accepting streets was drafted and presented for approval to the City Council. The method for accepting an existing street as I remember was for the residents of the street to submit a petition

with 75 percent signing to request that a public hearing be held on site and view the street and receive comments.

After reviewing comments, the committee would request that the Engineering Department have a survey of the street completed. If all checked out, the legal work was completed and the street could be brought to the council for vote to accept the street.

In new subdivisions, it was a requirement of the developer to present plans to the Planning Board and the Street Acceptance Committee who, after review, would submit the street to the City Council for approval. This normally took place after the subdivision had been completed and the final pavement had been laid and all town agencies involved had signed off on the subdivision.

Prior to my leaving office, a number of existing streets and streets in new subdivisions were accepted by the City Council. The only hold-up the Street Acceptance Committee had was funds being made available for the survey work necessary to draw the street layouts on the older streets.

To my knowledge, all the ground work is there. All that is needed is any tinkering that the council or administration feel is necessary to update the procedure.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Shaughnessy
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Former Resident & Town Councilor Of Agawam

Contributions Sought For Kate's Kitchen & Loreto House

To The Editor:

To The Good Citizens Of Agawam:

Kate's Kitchen, a place that fed over 125 people each day, and *Loreto House*, a safe haven for 19 homeless men, were destroyed by fire on the evening of August 29th.

This loss is great, especially for those who crossed the threshold of these hopeful places in need of food, shelter, and compassion. Countless numbers of people have found the hope and courage to begin anew through *Kate's Kitchen* and *Loreto House*.

Providence Ministries for the Needy, Inc., would like to take this opportunity to thank the firefighters of Agawam for their efforts during this devastating fire. Although many structures were not saved, including *Loreto House* and *Kate's Kitchen*, there was no loss of life, and that is what is really important.

It is at this time that we ask the citizens of Agawam to help us begin again our ministry of compassion and hope. Please send a tax-deductible gift, payable to **Providence Ministries Relocation Fund**, and mail to P.O. Box 6269, Holyoke, MA 01041-6269. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Robin "Bob" L. Goshea
Administrator
Providence Ministries for the Needy, Inc.

Cohen Will Give His All As The Mayor Of Agawam

To The Editor:

I am very pleased that Richard Cohen has entered the mayoral race. I feel that Richard is a caring, giving, and integral gentleman with a vision for the betterment of our community.

I believe that Richard will put his heart and soul into working for all the people in Agawam.

Susan Longtin
Feeding Hills

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...



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LETTERS - from Page 4...

Richard Cohen Understands Important Educational Issues

To The Editor:

As an individual who works within the educational field, I have come to understand an issue that burns deeply within the hearts of all parents.

That issue being education! As an adjunct instructor at Springfield Technical Community College, a former special education teacher, and intern within the Agawam school system, I have come to know many dedicated individuals to the field. One such man that stands above the rest would be Richard Cohen.

Richard Cohen not only shows a dedication to education, but a sincerity in the way in which it is delivered to the students. Not only are his accomplishments measurable statistically, but they may also be recognized in the smiles of students' faces.

In recognizing that our American school systems are in dire straights, at this time we need leaders that can not only understand the problem, but address it as well. Rich Cohen is such a person.

I strongly suggest voting for Richard Cohen on October 5th. Your child's education may rest on it.

Sincerely,
Jim Joyce
Springfield

Closing Of Speedway Will Provide "Sacred Quiet"

To The Editor:

According to *Union-News* staff writer Gene O'Donnell, Riverside Park Speedway, which will soon cease to exist, "has provided excitement and entertainment to generations for the past 51 years." He failed to mention, however, that the noise from the Speedway has been a major annoyance to nearby residents for almost as long.

In my early teens, I used to love going to the races. My favorite driver was Jocko Maggiasco. I remember going once with my older sister's boyfriend to Jocko's speed shop in Poughkeepsie, New York to have some engine parts balanced. It was a thrill to meet the great Jocko in person. Over 30 years later, long after I had stopped going to the Speedway, I brought my oldest daughter for a college interview to Vassar in Poughkeepsie. As we neared the school, I saw a billboard for Jocko's speed shop. I couldn't believe that he was still in business after all those years. It warmed my heart.

When my wife and I were first dating, I convinced her once to go to the Speedway with me. I got a splitting headache from the loud noise and foul exhaust fumes that Saturday night. We never went to the races again. I had seen my last race at

the tender age of 19.

Although the passing of the Speedway will understandably be a sad event for many, it will be a joyous occasion for others. In the 1980's, the *Sunday Republican* reported how a woman on nearby River Road would become depressed during the summer because she was unable to entertain friends in her backyard because the Speedway noise was so loud. And Mayor Johnson stated earlier this year that he received more complaints about the noise from Riverside Park than anything else during his 10 years in office.

The roar of the engines will be sorely missed by many next year, but others will enjoy what Amherst poet, Emily Dickinson, enjoyed long ago. In an unsigned obituary appearing in *The Springfield Republican* on May 18, 1886, Emily's sister-in-law, Susan Dickinson, wrote of Emily: "The sacred quiet of her own house proved the fit atmosphere for her work and worth." With the silencing of the Speedway, many residents will welcome the return of their "sacred quiet."

Mike Marieb
Feeding Hills

Please Attend Public Hearing Set For Monday, Sept. 20th

To The Editor:

A Notice To All The Citizens Of Agawam:

The "No Smoking" draft for Agawam that was voted down at the Health Board meeting has been submitted to the City Council and the City Council has scheduled a public hearing at the Middle School on Main Street for Monday, September 20, 1999 at 7:30 p.m.

There were many at the Board of Health public hearing that were very disappointed by their final vote to defeat the proposal.

This is to notify all of you who are interested in a clean air environment that we now have another opportunity to accomplish something in Agawam that is in the best interests of all its people.

Please make every effort to attend the hearing on Monday, Sept. 20th to let the City Council know that this is an important subject that you are interested in. It is not necessary that you speak at the mike, just your presence will speak volumes to the City Council.

If you cannot attend the public hearing, it would be of great importance if you send a letter to the City Council at the Agawam Town Hall on Main St. or perhaps make a telephone call to any or all of the members of the City Council and make them aware of your interest. If you can't do either of the above and you happen to meet up with any of them in your daily travels, tell them of your feelings on the subject.

I am sure the City Council will respond favorably if they know that their constituents are interested enough to contact them on this subject or to put in an appearance at the hearing.

I hope to see you all there.

Edythe Chiba
Agawam

Agawam City Council Has A Moral Responsibility

To The Editor:

Analyst Dana Reed's July resignation from the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB), with his letter dated August 26th, puts elected officials and our whole State on notice. Mr. Reed's revelations, with EFSB's track record of approving all utility petitions before them no matter how flawed, indicates that agency demonstrating favoritism towards this industry beyond the bounds of what regulatory boards ought to be charged with. It is clear this agency no longer serves public interests, but rather confuses private interests with public interest, and promotes private interests to such as extent their hearing process has been rendered an absurdity. The hearings are but a pretense and formality before the decision, already set in stone, is rendered.

We need look no further than the Berkshire Power controversy in the Town of Agawam to see proof of this. The sole and only reason Berkshire Power was sited in Agawam, by this agency, was a blatant decision by this agency to redefine the term "public service corporation" in Berkshire Power's favor. The decision was rendered by hearing officer Mr. Rasmussen, who was rewarded for his illegal decision by the Power Development Company (PDC) — Berkshire Power's parent company — having been granted a position in the PDC soon after rendering his decision. The decision stood because Mayor Christopher C. Johnson of Agawam — a Berkshire Power booster — refused an appeal knowing how judicial review would have negated Mr. Rasmussen's illegal and ill-informed decision.

Now, the State's EFSB has dispensed altogether with their pretense of neutrality — deciding against the City Council of Agawam to mandate burning oil on Berkshire Power's premises in spite of the company's illegally constructed oil tank, or the company's possibly perjured testimony regarding it. From the hearings held in Boston, it was clear that the hearing officer never took under consideration motions for postponement or dismissal, and proceeded to depose witnesses and hear sworn testimony despite being advised of her lack of jurisdiction. She rendered her decision knowing full well the matter came before the City Council illegally, knowing full well local agencies approved the matter based on submission of misinformation, knowing full well the Town has never experienced natural gas shortages, and understanding too well how her decision to narrow the scope of hearing barred testimony to reasons behind the City Council decision in the first place. What her decision so blatantly betrayed in this agency's obvious agenda to defend and promote all utility projects before them — even if representatives for those companies perjure themselves or misrepresent facts in testimony before said agency.

SEE LETTERS - Page 6...

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LETTERS - from Page 5...

Mr. Reed understood the score perfectly, noting the Town of Agawam and other municipalities have little if any chance before the Board of "being dealt with fairly." With the tank "illegally constructed," he made clear reservations about overruling the City Council some time ago. "The petitioner deliberately distorted ... requirements under oath," he noted, and the Board was about "to set a disturbing and dangerous regulatory precedent." Motions for dismissal "made a strong case," he suggests, and the Board failed to meet its responsibility "to maintain a high standard of conduct for all parties." His most telling indictment of the Board follows: [Failure] to hold this petitioner accountable [puts] the full Board at risk and [will] result in further erosion of public confidence... Mr. Reed was careful to note that the size of the tank was in violation of a previously binding departmental decision. EFSB has been exposed.

The City Council of the Town of Agawam has the moral responsibility to file an appeal of this decision, as EFSB has not yet encountered judicial review. The General Court, every State Representative and Senator, likewise share moral responsibility to strip unelected quasi-judicial agencies removed from the public of power to review municipal zoning and the decisions of elected municipal officers. Our state legislators must act for the Town of Agawam's relief, immediately.

Sincerely,
Owen R. Broadhurst
Agawam

Someone Dropped The Ball Regarding AHS's Library

To The Editor:

I was happy to read that Jennifer Ellis, Agawam High School's new library/media specialist, has rolled up her sleeves and begun weeding out tattered and outdated books.

Why wasn't this done long ago? Who had responsibility for keeping the library current? Was it only the librarian or did the High School's principal or the School Committee have responsibility? Someone clearly dropped the ball. What's especially irksome is that the chairman of the School Committee, Mayor Johnson, claims that Agawam is one of the best towns on the planet. How can he make such a statement when many of the books in the library are 30 years-old? Books in the health, science, and computer fields are way past their prime when they are 30.

Perhaps it was okay for the French philosopher Voltaire to say, "All's well in the best of all possible worlds." It is not okay for Mayor Johnson to boast about how great our town is when many of the library books, needed by students for their research, are primitive by today's standards.

Mike Marieb
Feeding Hills

Regular Council Meeting Agenda

Agawam Middle School, 68 Main St.
Monday, September 20th - 7:30 P.M.

1. Citizen's Speak Time.
2. Roll Call.
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 9/7/99.
5. Declaration from Council President.
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances.

(a) Resolutions

1. TR-99-29- A Resolution Requesting the Filing of Special Legislation Providing for the Layout and Acceptance of Certain Ways by the City Known as the Town of Agawam (Sponsored by the Street Acceptance Committee, Nancy E. Thompson, Chairperson, and John P. Stone, Superintendent of Public Works).

(b) Petitions

1. PE-99-1 - Group Petition, Art. 8, Sec. 8-1(b) (Regulations Affecting Smoking in Public Places) (Pres. Rheault)(Set Public Hearing Date - Suggest 10/6/99).

7. Report of Council Committees.

8. Elections.

None.

9. Public Hearings.

None.

10. Old Business

(a)

1. TOR-99-5 - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 35 of the Code of the Town of Agawam to Allow for Non-Criminal Disposition of Violations of Board of Health Rules and Regulations (Sponsored by Jill P. Simpson, Councilor, Linda Galarneau, School Committee Member, and Susan Pettazzoni, School Committee Member).

2. TO-99-28- Dealers in Violation of Class I & II Licenses (Coun. Negrucci)(Tabled on 9/7/99).

Summer Intern...



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL F. KEENAN is pleased to announce that Amber Conte of Agawam has spent the summer working as an aide in his office. Amber's duties included work in both Keenan's district office and the State House in Boston. A 1998 graduate of AHS, Amber has just finished her freshman year at Suffolk University (where she is studying Communications). A Dean's List student during the fall and spring semesters, she is the daughter of Louis and Deborah Conte of Agawam.

Compromise Reached On State's Sex Offender Registry Law

Senate Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Senate and House have reached a compromise on legislation that will strengthen the Commonwealth's sex offender registry law, establish civil commitment for sex offenders, and create lifetime community parole supervision for sex offenders.

The bill addresses the concerns of both branches of the legislature and recent rulings of the Supreme Judicial Court, insuring that offenders will still have to register in the communities where they reside while responding to the Court's concerns with the sex offender hearing process.

"I am proud that the legislature has acted to prevent some of the worst crimes in our society," said Melconian. "With this legislation, we are giving the state stronger weapons in the war on sexual predators."

There are three main components of the legislation, which enjoyed unanimous support in the Senate. An important aspect of the bill is the revision of the administration of the sex offender registry: to expand the number of crimes it includes; to classify sexually violent predators separately; and to strengthen the registration requirement for sex offenders, among other enhancements. "This legislation incorporates the lessons we learned from the original sex offender registry, from other states and from our own Supreme Judicial Court," said Melconian.

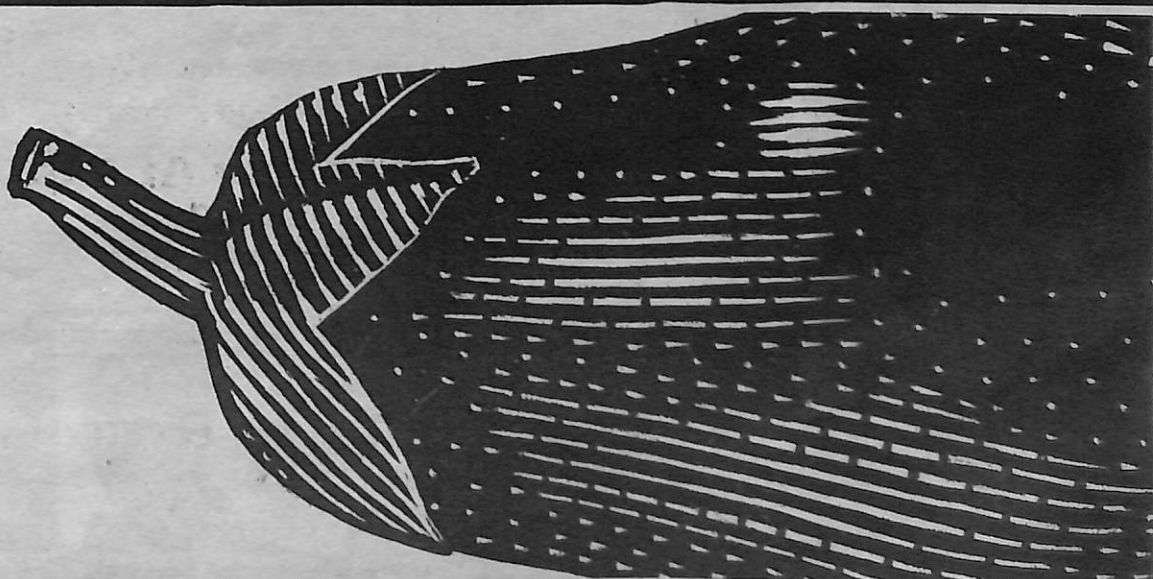
"It will improve public safety by giving extensive public access to offender information and requiring close monitoring of released sex offenders."

Another important component of the bill is the ability to make a civil commitment, which would allow for commitment to a secure facility of those deemed sexually dangerous. "Now the Attorney General and District Attorneys will have a way to protect the public from criminals who have finished their sentences, but still pose a grave risk to the public," said Melconian.

The legislation, she reports, also provides for a sentence of lifetime community parole supervision for serious sex offenders. "Meaningful oversight of released offenders gives these criminals the chance to adjust and become responsible citizens with a minimum of risk to the public."

"The harm caused by sexual predators is one of the most serious facing society today," said Melconian. "This legislation is an outstanding effort to both protect the public from these crimes and also give offenders a chance at rehabilitation."

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EVERYTHING YOU'D GROW IF YOU HAD 40 ACRES.

E. CECCHI FARMS

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BORGATTI - from Page 1...

tal in gaining for the town to use as a recreation area in the early 1960's when he served on the Parks and Recreation Board.

"It is a great honor to have my only grandson, Michael, playing on the equipment at the field with my name on it," Borgatti said. "Riverside Park did a fantastic job and I've got to give (Recreation Director) Chris Sparks credit for doing a fantastic job picking out equipment that will last for years. They couldn't have chosen a better spot in the park. It's good for the town to have a nice area like this with things for the kids to play on while their parents sit down and enjoy themselves. I hope it will be well used."

Without the presence of Stella Borgatti, who passed away last year, the ceremony was a bittersweet moment for Borgatti and his children, Ed Jr. and Shelley Reed, and for the friends and family members who joined them for the rededication of the park.

"Stella put up with a lot with the hours I worked over the years," Borgatti remembered. "She worked for 10 years at E.B.'s Restaurant as a waitress and a hostess. She did a fantastic job and the people loved her."

Along with his father, Ed Borgatti, Jr. praised Riverside Park and Town Council President Donald M. Rheault for their work in turning the family's simple wish for a new sign and a rededication ceremony while Ed Sr. was still with them to enjoy it into a major upgrade in the facilities at the park.

"Donny Rheault deserves the credit for getting Riverside on board and for making this happen," according to Borgatti, Jr. "The fact that my father hasn't passed away and didn't donate any cash in order to receive this recognition makes this a much better tribute to what my father's done for this town."

Giving Something Back To The Community...

Riverside General Manager Tim Black said the upgrade at Borgatti Park was something Riverside was willing to undertake because of their half-mile proximity to the park and because Riverside is happy to give something back to a community that has supported them.

"It's wonderful to look around and see the play equipment," Black said. "It's the kind of thing that makes the quality of life so much better."

According to Riverside Marketing Director Ron Severt, the company's \$10,000 donation toward the purchase of the new equipment and their donation of the new sign is just the beginning of their efforts to upgrade the park.



THANK YOU, RIVERSIDE PARK!!! Mayor Christopher Johnson (third from the left) accepts a check for the Borgatti Field renovations from Riverside General Manager Tim Black. Looking on are (from left to right) Town Councilor Robert Young, State Rep. Dan Keenan, Parks & Rec. Director Christopher Sparks, Ed Borgatti, Sr., and Louis Russo. Advertiser News

photo by Kathy Shepard.

"We're not done here," Severt said. "As you can see, there is planting, landscaping, and work on the infield that needs to be done."

Severt, who passes by the park every day on his way to work, has long thought that Riverside's sign department could do a better job than the old sign, and when Rheault mentioned he was interested in upgrading the park, that really got the ball rolling.

Rheault said Riverside went over and above what he had asked them to do, as they have done so many times in the past.

"They identified needs we never expected them to address," Rheault said. "It was great to have that kind of cooperation. They've given a lot to the community and they're planning to continue."

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson gave kudos to Riverside Park for supplying the majority of the funding for the \$15,000 improvement project, and the Mayor credited Sparks for his work in ordering

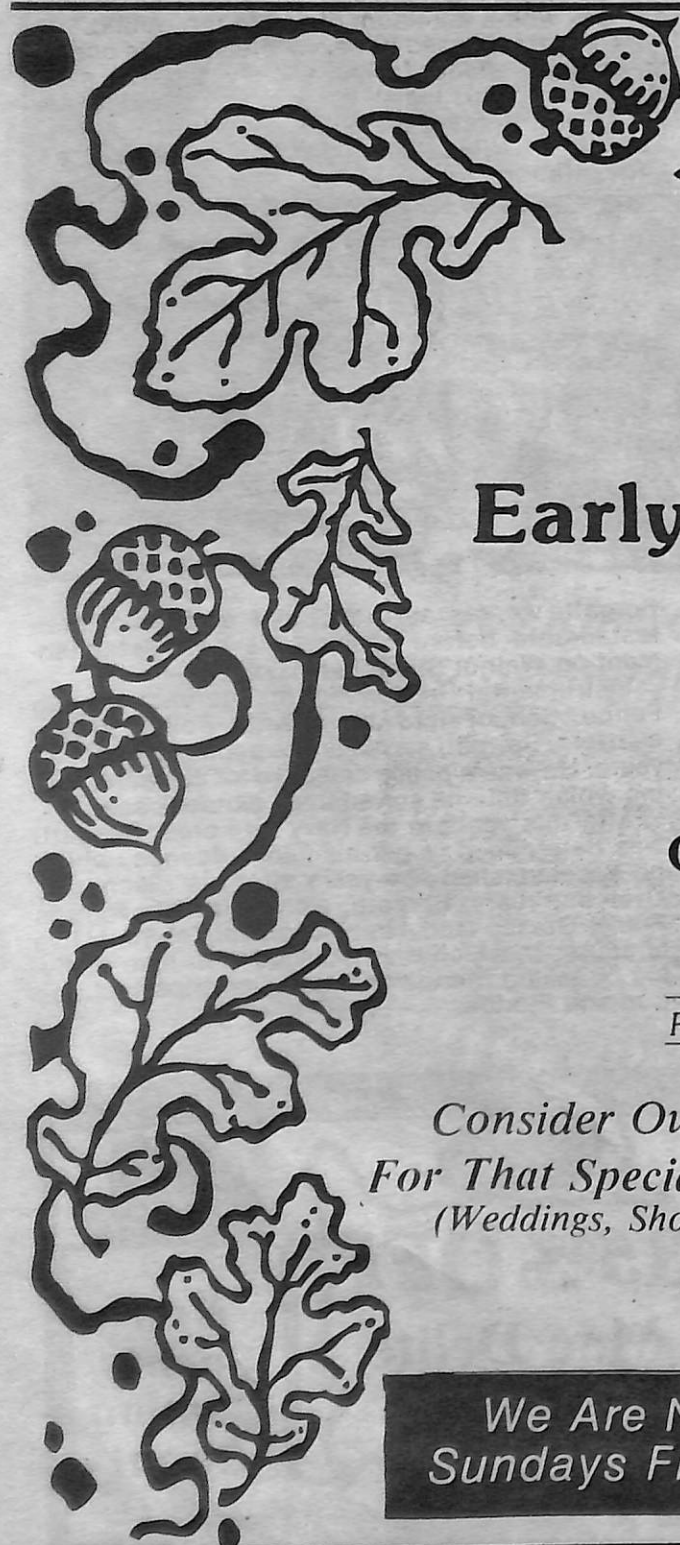
and designing the layout of the park. Mike Piccin and his DPW park and recreation crew were commended by the Mayor for their work in setting up the equipment and grooming the site.

"We now have a nice, quality place to take your family to enjoy the picnic tables, the grills, and the playground equipment," Johnson said. "All you have to see is the kids going immediately to the new equipment to realize what a worthwhile project this is."

Johnson said it was amazing to see how the kids occupy themselves on the train and the play equipment for hours at a time.

The train is similar to one Sparks observed at the Summer House Restaurant in Southwick. And when he saw how much the children enjoyed it, he made it a point to find out how to get one for the park, Johnson said.

SEE BORGATTI - Page 8...



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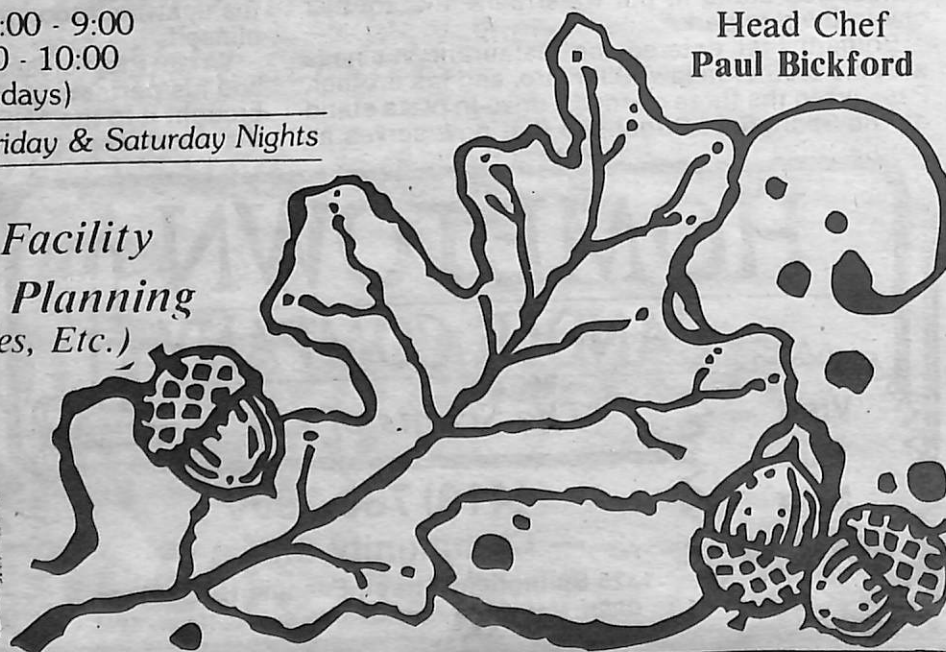
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BORGATTI - from Page 7...

According to the Mayor, the family picnic/play area was situated in that particular location to take advantage of the shade trees and to make it easily visible to police for security checks as they patrol River Road.

Since taking over as the recreation director in June, Sparks has seen the number of playscapes in town grow from none to four at the elementary schools and the one at Borgatti Park. Having recently received Town Council approval for funding for two new playscapes at Perry Lane Park, Sparks expects to see all seven playscapes completed within one year of his appointment as recreation director.

"These playscapes are a huge addition for the children and their families, and a definite sign of a commitment to the children on the part of the town," Sparks said. "I was glad to be able to walk into a new job and be able to do a renovation, put out new equipment, and lay out a new park for the community, allowing me to make such a difference to the town."

The park was named in Borgatti's honor in the early 1960's by the Board of Selectmen in recognition of his work in obtaining the 12-acre site for the town to use as a ball field. An appointed and later an elected member of the Parks and Recreation Board in the 1960's, Borgatti's travels around town as a police officer convinced him that the River Road area of town needed a recreation area, as all the playgrounds in town were located at the elementary schools.

The playgrounds all had summer programs of arts and crafts and sports under the directorship of Smith Rovelli, but the neighborhood children in the River Road area had no recreational facilities, Borgatti explained.

"I'm happy to see that people appreciate some of my work," Borgatti said. "It's very honoring to me to have something like this with my name on it. I thank my kids and all the people involved who made this possible," Borgatti said.

At Town Meeting in 1962...

After discovering that Johnny Groden, who lived across from the nine acres he owned on River Road, was willing to sell the land to the town for \$11,000, and Hugh Corr of West Springfield was willing to sell the adjoining three acres for \$10,000, Borgatti brought the proposal up at Town Meeting in 1962, but his suggestion was rejected by two votes cast by the 120 Town Meeting members.

Borgatti then went to developer Charlie Calabrese, who agreed to purchase Corr's land for use as three building lots, allowing the town access to the acreage in the rear of the parcel.

Finally, he was able to convince Town Meeting to fund \$11,000 for the Groden property on a reconsideration vote.

But, the story took a strange and expensive twist for the town when it was discovered seven years later that the Corr land had never been sold to Calabrese, and Town Manager Jim Westman decided to buy the three acres for \$38,000, Borgatti recalled.

Borgatti traces his lifelong commitment to sports and recreation to his days playing the four varsity sports offered at Agawam High School during his days as a student.

"I was pretty good at football, basketball, and baseball, but not so good at track," Borgatti reminisced.

Fresh out of the service in 1948 as a Navy Air Force aircraft mechanic on an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic theater after having enlisted on the same day he graduated from AHS, Borgatti returned home to establish the Sacred Heart Athletic Association, where he served as its first president.

The owner of another Agawam landmark, E.B's Restaurant on Walnut Street Extension, Borgatti still sometimes works in the restaurant now managed by his son, Ed Jr., and at the restaurant's concession stands at Riverside Park.

"We did so well there this summer that we expect to be invited back next year," Borgatti said. "We appreciate Riverside considering us for a concession stand in the water park and another one in the ride park."

Borgatti first entered the restaurant business with his brother-in-law, Bill Flaro, and his brother, Paul, when the three opened a drive-in pizza stand on the Springfield Street site that now serves as



IN TOP PHOTO: State Rep. Dan Keenan, Parks & Rec. Director Christopher Sparks, Mayor Christopher Johnson, Ed Borgatti, Sr., Council President Donald Rheault, Ed Borgatti, Jr., and Jerry Gretzinger (Riverside Park public relations). **IN PHOTO BELOW:** Danielle White, Caroline Paleologopoulos, and Michael Reed (Ed Borgatti, Sr.'s grandson) try out some of the new equipment at Borgatti Field. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



the site of State Rep. Dan Keenan's office and, until recently, was home to a Pizza Hut restaurant.

Borgatti and his partners constructed a wooden drive-in stand and, relying on his mother to provide the pizza sauce, the three men operated the stand during the summer months from 1953 until 1960. When his landlord wanted to sell the Springfield Street location of the pizza stand, Borgatti bought the parcel, which extended back to North Street, and built the first electrically heated apartments in the Northeast in 1964, designing the apartment complex, which still stands today, himself.

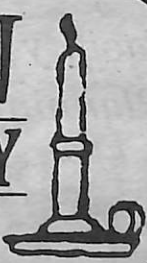
When they closed the pizza drive-in, Borgatti and his partners picked up the wooden stand and brought it to the AHS athletic field, where they ran the food concession for 14 years. After that,

Borgatti worked as a chef in a number of area restaurants before opening his own establishment on Walnut Street Extension.

Instrumental in turning the defunct Faolin Peirce School into the town's Police Headquarters, Borgatti served on the police force for 32 years. He was a police detective for 22 years, during which time he solved three murder cases.

After his years in the Navy Air Force, Borgatti was determined to get his pilot's license, which he accomplished five years after his discharge. Over the years, Borgatti, along with his friends Frank Grasso and Harry Leonardi, owned five airplanes in which they indulged their love of flying by taking friends and family on trips to Cape Cod and Florida.

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Mass. Municipal Councilors To Hold Sept. 17th Meeting

The Massachusetts Municipal Councilors Association Executive Committee will be holding a meeting this Friday, September 17th, at the Comfort Inn Parwick Centre in Chicopee. This meeting will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. State Senator Knapik will be the featured speaker, with his remarks scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting is being hosted by Agawam City Councilor Nancy E. Thompson and Chicopee Alderman William Zaskey. The Massachusetts Municipal Councilors Association is the professional organization for councilors and aldermen throughout the Commonwealth.

City Councilor Thompson serves as the immediate past President of this organization. She was presented with this organization's Distinguished Leadership Award in 1997. She served as President of the Massachusetts Municipal Councilors Association in 1995 and 1996.

From Melconian's Office...

Melconian Files Legislation To Speed Phone Service For The Handicapped

Senate Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce that she has filed legislation to require all providers of local, residential telephone service to install phone service within 24 hours, or make a reasonable alternate accommodation, for all handicapped individuals.

"For handicapped individuals, barriers to phone service can be life-threatening," said Melconian. "Because disabled and handicapped individuals often have complex medical needs, they are more likely to suffer a medical emergency that requires immediate attention. Without phone service, they may be helpless."

Currently, no procedure exists for a disabled individual to receive expedited phone service in the Commonwealth, and the wait for installation of local phone service can be as long as 10 days. Im-

mediate phone service is especially important for disabled individuals.

Not only do these individuals rely on the phone for prompt medical attention, it is also a vital link to the outside world. The phone is invaluable in securing food and other necessities, and may be the individual's sole means of contact with friends or relatives.

The bill uses the definition of handicap found in the anti-discrimination statutes of the General Laws and contains a penalty of \$1,000 for any individual who claims to be handicapped in order to gain immediate telephone services. Thirteen other members of the Senate have cosponsored the legislation.

"It is vital that handicapped individuals be able to contact the outside world as quickly as possible," said Melconian. "This bill will make it easier for them to live normal, independent lives."

VOTE DON RHEAULT MAYOR



Don and his grandchildren (all from Agawam)

When Don talks about improving our school system or upgrading and adding recreational facilities, there's good reason to believe him. Don's commitment to our community and his record of achievement have been demonstrated by his 16 years of dedicated public service.

*He cares about their future, he cares
our future!*

VOTE DON RHEAULT FOR MAYOR ON PRIMARY DAY OCTOBER 5th

Veterans' Corner...

House Bill 4637 Could Lower
Waiting Period For Military Retirement
Buy-In For Government Employees

by Ruth C. Bitzas

Agawam Veterans' Agent — 786-0400, 236/237

Chapter 71 of the Acts of 1996 allows wartime veterans to buy-in up to four years of their military service in County Retirement systems. This was an exciting bill and many municipal employees took advantage of the opportunity, including myself. One of the requirements is that the veteran must be vested in the retirement system, meaning that one needed to be a government employee for at least 10 years.

House 4637 was recently submitted for consideration by Senator Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Shaun P. Kelly. The bill provides that, "Section 4 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1996 Official Edition, be amended by striking out the word 'ten,' in line 111, and inserting in place thereof the word '5.'"

This change, if passed into law, would allow veterans with just five years of government employ to buy into the retirement system rather than needing to be "vested" with 10 years of service. This bill is of particular importance to older government employees nearing retirement who, with this change, would be able to buy back their time sooner.

A Committee hearing on House 4637 heard input from the public as well as many veterans' organizations on the bill on Tuesday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the State House. Those interested in passage of the bill should contact Representative Dan Keenan at 786-4545 or 1-617-722-2430, and Senate Majority Leader Senator Linda J. Melconian at 785-0820 or her State House office at 1-617-722-1660. Remember, in getting legislation passed, NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT!

This week, we begin publishing for the second and last time, our list of veterans whose names will be listed on the Agawam Honor Roll to be erected on Veterans' Green next year. This week will be the entire list of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Agawam.

TIMOTHY ALLEN
WILLIAM ALLEN
MOSES BALL
ERL BANCROFT
ELEAZER BATES
JOSEPH BEDORTHA
STEPHEN BODURTHA
CHRISTOPHER BURBANK
LEMUEL CLARKE
JOSEPH COLTON
ENOCH COOPER
MOSES FERRE
DANIEL FLOWER
SAMUEL FLOWER
TIMOTHY FLOWER
BILDAD FOWLER
JOB FOWLER
ABEL GRISWOLD
HENRY HEDGES
ABIJAH HENDRICK
TIMOTHY HORTON
GEORGE HUBBARD
EBENEZER JONES
JOHN KILLUM
JOHN LANCKTON
ABEL LEONARD
ABNER LEONARD
ARIBERT LEONARD
ASAPH LEONARD
BENJAMIN LEONARD
CHARLES LEONARD
DANIEL LEONARD
ELIAS LEONARD
JUBA LEONARD
MOSES LEONARD
PRESERVED LEONARD
THADDEUS LEONARD
TIMOTHY LEONARD
AMASA LOOMIS
JESSE MCINTIRE
WILLIAM MCINTIER
SAMUEL MERRICK
ABEL MORLEY
DAVID MORLEY
JOHN NORMAN
BENJAMIN OLDS
THOMAS PELTER
JOSEPH PHELAND
JOHN PORTER
SETH REMINGTON
TIMOTHY ROBINSON
NATHAN ROWLEY
GAD WARRINER
HEZEKIAH WARRINER
LEWIS WARRINER
DANIEL WHITE
JACOB WINCHEL
SAMUEL WOLCOTT
JONANTHAN WORTHINGTON

ADVERTISER NEWS

Ameruoso Withdraws Request For \$100,000 For Elementary Libraries

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

When school budget deliberations were underway last spring, it appeared that the School Committee supported the idea of earmarking half of the estimated revenue raised through the School Choice Program to purchase books and materials for the new library/media centers at the four elementary schools.

But the seven member board will not be voting on the proposal after committee Chairman (Mayor) Christopher C. Johnson announced the plan was being withdrawn by Superintendent of Schools Frank Ameruoso at Tuesday night's meeting.

"We're going to use \$100,000 of capital improvement funds for the elementary school libraries and leave the school choice funds for other uses or possible shortfalls in other areas," Johnson said. "The four elementary schools will receive \$25,000 each."

The resolution had been on the committee's agenda as new business and would have come up for a vote in two weeks at their next meeting when Johnson, giving few details, said it was being withdrawn at Ameruoso's request.

Although there was no discussion of where possible shortfalls in this year's school budget may surface, in the past, unexpected cost overruns have been almost exclusively in the area of Special Education, where it is impossible to accurately predict spending needs a year-and-a-half in advance as necessitated by the timetable for putting the school budget together.

During the School Committee's budget deliberations in the spring, committeeman Louis Massola unsuccessfully attempted to add \$100,000 to the \$4,897,283 budget requested for Special Education, raising the specter of the possibility of a freeze on supply accounts halfway through next year in order to cover a budget that was already \$300,000 underfunded.

Unpredictability Of Budget Planning

During a budget workshop in the spring, Director of Special Education John Brosnan said a freeze on supply accounts to cover shortfalls in his department hasn't been necessary for the last three years. However, to illustrate the unpredictability of planning his budget, Brosnan said the number of students (46) covered in the current budget request of \$836,908 for in-state tuition at private schools had grown to 72 since the budget was prepared and had the potential to go up to 84

students.

Ameruoso said the School Department had been conservative in constructing the budget and can come close to actual cost estimates in most areas, but not in Special Education (where the administration predicted a shortfall in funding).

The School Department planned to use about half of the estimated \$200,000 in school choice revenue to purchase books and materials for the four new library/media centers at the elementary schools. The remainder of those school choice funds, as well as \$50,000 in the reserve account, were to be held in abeyance in the event that there are unforeseen expenses in the Special Education Department.

Earlier this year, Deputy School Superintendent Donald Charest said the School Department would go back to Town Council for additional money to cover Special Education overruns before attempting to raise the money by freezing the supply accounts.

Also at Tuesday night's meeting, Ameruoso outlined the proactive steps the School Department is taking to protect school children from a country-wide outbreak of shigellosis, a form of dysentery caused by bacteria and usually spread by inadequate handwashing hygiene.

"We're having all the children made aware of the proper handwashing techniques, especially after using the restrooms and before eating," Ameruoso said.

Wet wipes will be passed out on all the lunch trays for the next month in order for the children to get into the habit of washing their hands before a meal, Ameruoso said.

Other items from the superintendent's notes:

— the district has been awarded a state grant of \$25,000 for the ESL program;

— The Future Teachers Club at AHS, under the leadership of Ralph Figy, has received \$2,000 from the Department of Education after being deemed an excellent program that will be monitored and emulated by clubs across the state;

— Special Education Director Dr. John Brosnan, who will retire next year, will be the next guest on the school superintendent's television program. The 15-minute program airs on cable channel 15 on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you

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Bolla (1.5 Ltr. Glass)

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Coors Extra Gold

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Bass Ale (England)

12-Pk. Bottles
\$11.99 (P.D.)

Guinness Pub

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Labatt's Blue, Ice, Ale, Light

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\$7.99 (P.D.)

Saranac Black & Tan, Pale Ale, Trail Mix

12-Pk. Bottles
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Porter, Indian Pale Ale
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— Agawam Obituaries —

Salvatore J. Impoco

Salvatore J. "Sam" Impoco, 70, of North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, died recently at home.

He owned Impoco's Poultry Co.

Born in Springfield, he moved to Feeding Hills 36 years ago.

He was a member of the Agawam UNICO, the Springfield Elks Lodge 61, the Agawam Community Grange, and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

He leaves his wife, the former Joyce A. Ducey; four sons, Lance A. of Boca Raton, Florida, Anthony J. of Southwick, and Raffaele J. DePalma and Salvatore J. DePalma, both of Feeding Hills; six daughters, Lisa M. Guarriello of Rutherfordton, North Carolina, Christina I. Nieves and Samantha A. Giuggio, both of Feeding Hills, Gina M. Impoco of Boston, Paula J. Bruno of Springfield, and Mia J. Impoco of West Springfield; his father, Joseph Impoco of Springfield; a brother, Joseph F. Jr. of East Longmeadow; a sister, Gina Frangie of East Longmeadow; and 12 grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, Donations Department, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104, or to any charity.

Lilla Pohl

Lilla (Caron) Pohl, of 50 Cardinal Drive, Agawam, died recently at an East Longmeadow nursing home.

Born in Springfield, she was a graduate of the former Springfield Technical High School.

She lived in Agawam for 2½ years and worked as a clerk at Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Springfield.

She was a volunteer at Springfield Hospital for many years and a member of the former First Congregational Church in Indian Orchard.

Her husband, Roger F. Pohl, died in 1996.

She leaves a son, Eric R. of Springfield; a daughter, Linda P. Greene of Oak Park, Illinois; two brothers, Walter Caron of New York City and Herbert Caron of Springfield; and a sister, Hazel Bourassa of Springfield.

The funeral was held at Evangelical Covenant Church in Indian Orchard, with a private burial.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Association of Western Massachusetts Chapter, 11 Campus Lane, Easthampton, MA 01027-1429.

Arthur F. Bazanchuk

Arthur F. Bazanchuk, 38, of Feeding Hills, died recently in Western Massachusetts Hospital in Westfield.

He was a supervisor for Mestek Inc. in Westfield.

He was a graduate of Westfield Vocational High School and a member of the Knox Trail Riders.

He leaves his wife, the former Beverly Hills; a daughter, Marissa Bazanchuk of Feeding Hills; his parents, Edward and Joyce Bazanchuk of Feeding Hills; and two sisters, Marianne Parady of Russell and Nancy Bazanchuk of Amherst.

A memorial service was held at Southwick-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Marissa Bazanchuk, in care of Westbank, Feeding Hills Branch, 1340 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Krista C. LeClerc

Krista C. LeClerc, infant daughter of Jodi Edwards and Kevin LeClerc, died recently at Noble Hospital in Westfield.

She was born approximately three weeks ago in Springfield.

She leaves her brother, Zachary of Westfield; her grandparents, Virginia and Robert Edwards of Westfield, and Judith LeClerc of Agawam; and her great-grandmother, Claire Hanchette of Westfield.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home in Agawam, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance, 91 Parkview Street, Springfield, MA 01129.

John M. Rice

John M. Rice, 18, of Evergreen Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island, died Sunday, July 31, 1999 in the Kent County Memorial Hospital following a swimming accident in Carr's Pond, West Greenwich, Rhode Island.

He was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, and attended James Clark School in Agawam. Several of his family members were raised on Charles Street, Agawam, and they attended First Baptist Church.

A student at Pilgrim High School, he lived in Warwick for seven years.

He had been employed as a landscaper for three months. He was previously employed as a movie theater projectionist from 1997 to 1998.

He leaves his parents, John M. Rice and Tina M. Graves Rice Jackson; his stepfather, Jeffrey J. Jackson; a brother, Joseph Rice; three sisters, Jessica Rice, Tara Lee, and Tiffany Ann Jackson; his maternal grandmother, Priscilla Haskins Graves of Adult Park, Westfield, and formerly of Charles Street, Agawam; his paternal grandparents, Frank and Cecilia Rice of Quebec, Canada; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins in the Agawam area.

The funeral was held at the Peter J. Barrett Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island. Burial was private.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to Greenmeadow Baptist Church, 266 Devil's Foot Road, North Kingston, Rhode Island 02852.

Stacia B. Egbert

Stacia B. (Godek) Egbert, 84, of 18 Karen Lynn Circle, Feeding Hills, died Saturday, September 11th, in Western Massachusetts Hospital, Westfield.

Born in Southwick, she lived in Springfield before moving to Agawam in 1951. She had also lived in Lakeworth, Florida, and moved to Feeding Hills in 1991.

She was a registered nurse, graduating in 1947 from the former Springfield Hospital School of Nursing, and then receiving her Associate Degree in Business from Holyoke Community College.

She had done private duty nursing, and was the Public Health Nurse for the Town of Agawam for over 25 years.

While living in Florida, she was a member of the Orchid Society.

She was a communicant of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield.

Her husband, Frederick W. Egbert, died in 1952.

She leaves two daughters, Elizabeth R. Egbert of Agawam and Susan B. LaPlante of Feeding Hills; a brother, Thaddeus Godek of Port St. Lucie, Florida; four sisters, Stella Arnold of West Palm Beach, Florida, Katherine Burns of South Hadley, Annette Williams of Springfield, and

Helen Curry of North Palm Beach, Florida; and three grandchildren, Christopher LaPlante, Simone Johanson-Byrd, and Amy LaPlante.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home and in the cathedral, with burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9A, West Springfield, MA 01089, or to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western Massachusetts, 1 Armory Square, Springfield, MA 01105.

Ida K. Brayton

Ida K. (Moriarty) Brayton, 89, of Feeding Hills, died Saturday, September 11th, in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield.

She was born in East Ferry, Digby County, Nova Scotia.

She was a 1930½ graduate of Technical High School, and lived in the Agawam area since 1941.

She was a past president of the Agawam Parent Teacher Association.

Her husband of 67 years, Harold A. Brayton, died in 1993.

She leaves two sons, Daniel E. of Marblehead and David C., with whom she lived; two daughters, Joan G. Cooper of Feeding Hills and Judith Dickinson of Granville; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Another daughter, Marjorie Cobb, died this year.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home, with burial in Woodland Cemetery, Granville.

Donations may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Rita Lecour

Rita (Mason) Lecour, 84, of Agawam, died on September 5th at home.

She was born in Pittsfield and lived in Springfield prior to moving to Agawam.

She was predeceased by her husband, Henry Mason, in 1983.

She leaves a niece, Darlene Goss of Suffield, and a nephew, Randel McLean of Agawam.

At the request of the family, the funeral and burial were private. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. John Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

SEE OBITUARIES -
Page 13...

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OBITUARIES - from Page 12...

Gertrude E. Stimson

Gertrude E. Stimson, 86, of Agawam and formerly of Springfield, died recently in a local nursing home.

She was born and schooled in Springfield. She leaves three sisters, Kathleen Fales of Agawam, Muriel Falt of Southwick, and Dorothy Syriac of Greensboro, North Carolina.

A private graveside service was held in Hillcrest Park Cemetery, and Byron's Allen Street Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Ethel P. Pigeon

Ethel P. (Richard) Pigeon, 74, of 340 North West Street, Agawam, died recently in Western Massachusetts Hospital, Westfield.

She worked for the former Densel Manufacturing Co., West Springfield, and the Edaron Corp., Holyoke, retiring in 1987.

Born in St. Albans, Vermont, she lived in New York before moving to the Feeding Hills section 45 years ago.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills, and was active in the Women's Auxiliary for the American Legion Post 185, Feeding Hills.

She also belonged to the Dancing Shadows Square Dancing Club, Chicopee.

Her husband, Paul A., died in August. She leaves four sons, Robert Robar of Springfield and Edward P. Pigeon, Paul T. Pigeon, and Wallace R. Pigeon of Feeding Hills; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Blanche R. Ferrick

Blanche R. (Beaupre) Ferrick, 80, of 90 Stewart Lane, Agawam, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She retired from Moore Drop Forge Co. in 1980, where she worked for 25 years as an inspector and supervisor. Previously, she was owner and operator of Blanche's Lunch in Springfield.

Born in Springfield and raised in St. Albans, Vermont, she moved to Agawam in 1959.

She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Her husband, Thomas J. Ferrick, died in 1965.

She leaves a son, Thomas J. of South Windsor, Connecticut; two daughters, Patricia A. Ferrick-Arnold of Newton, North Carolina, and Barbara Jean Ferrick-Holmes of Blandford; a sister, Melba Underwood of Westfield; 15 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Robert L. Holland

Robert Lee Holland, 61, of Feeding Hills, died recently at UMass Medical Center in Worcester.

Born and educated in Holland, Virginia, he worked at Schwann's Ice Cream and Frozen Foods Co. and was manager at the Allen Lawnmower Store for 15 years.

He was president of the West Springfield Fish and Game Club.

He leaves his wife, the former Ingeborg Roth; a son, Robert O'Connell of Holyoke; four daughters, Brenda O'Connell of Springfield, Linda O'Connell of South Hadley, Cindy Council of Franklin, Virginia, and Robin Salmon of Suffolk, Virginia; a brother, Elvers Holland of Holland, Virginia; and nine grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial in Southampton Memorial Park Cemetery in Virginia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Make A Wish Foundation, 1 Armory Square, Springfield, MA 01105, or to any charity.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL
APPROVED ORDINANCE
TOR-99-4

An Ordinance to amend Chapter 175, Article XI entitled "Backflow and Cross-Connection Regulations" of the Code of the Town of Agawam.

Said Ordinance is of a length too cumbersome for publication. Accordingly, copy of said ordinance is available for reference at the office of the City Clerk, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:40 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL
Donald M. Rheault, President
Agawam City Council

Published: September 16, 1999

Tribute For Mayor Christopher Slated For October 1st At Alexander's Restaurant

A tribute to Mayor Christopher C. Johnson will be held on Friday, October 1, 1999 at Alexander's Restaurant in Feeding Hills. There will be a social hour at 6:00 p.m., followed by a buffet at 7:00 p.m.

This event will be an opportunity to express appreciation to Mayor Johnson for his 10 years of

leadership and to wish him well in the future.

Tickets may be purchased by calling either Ray Wyckoff at 786-0050 or Rita Moore at 786-9094.

Tickets will be limited, so the committee would advise anyone who plans on attending this event to purchase their tickets early.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, September 23, 1999 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to

hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Hill for property located on Mill Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

Published: September 16, 1999

For all the hometown news, you turn our pages each and every week ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

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10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Beef	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
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Rib Half	\$1.69 Lb.
Loin Half	\$1.89 Lb.
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Russer Kielbasa Loaf	\$2.69 Lb.
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Fresh Seafood Salad	\$3.99 Lb.
Wampler Turkey Breast	\$1.99 Lb.

DAIRY & FROZEN

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.09
Hood Skim Milk (½ Gallon)	\$1.29
Hood Premium Chocolate Milk (½ Gallon)	\$1.99

SEAFOOD

Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$3.99 Lb.
Frozen Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$10.99

PRODUCE

Bananas	39¢ Lb.
Honeydews	\$1.69 Each
New Crop McIntosh And Cortland Apples	69¢ Lb.
Local Potatoes (10 Lb. Bag)	\$1.39
Canadian Carrots (1 Lb. Bag)	39¢ Each
Fresh Broccoli (Bunch)	99¢
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Campaign '99

Scheduled For September 22nd...

Thompson To Host Open Forum On Education

Agawam City Councilor and candidate for Mayor Nancy E. Thompson has scheduled an open forum on education that she will host which is open to all Agawam residents. This forum will focus on the Agawam Public School system and the education of Agawam's children from preschool through high school.

This forum will be held in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library on Wednesday, September 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Councilor Thompson stated, "I am taking this proactive stance because I want to hear from and to dialogue with the people of Agawam on this very important issue ... the education of all of our children. A list of the issues and concerns that we will all discuss will be compiled and forwarded to the appropriate individuals for follow-up. As Mayor, I will provide feedback on the issues raised at this forum."

The education of Agawam's children will be a priority of the Thompson administration. As Thompson has stated, "We have some very pertinent issues to address in our preschool program. I also want to revisit the idea of an all-day kindergarten program here in Agawam. Our High School not only needs to obtain accreditation, but it also needs to retain and sustain this. I hope that students, parents, teachers, administrators, and any resident who is interested in the education of Agawam's children will attend."

Bonavita Accepting Invitations For Coffee Hours

As a candidate for the Agawam City Council, Anthony C. Bonavita is accepting invitations for coffee hours throughout the election campaign.

Bonavita explained, "I have already been meeting voters to obtain their input. My committee members and I have been discussing different ways to meet the voters. Therefore, we plan to hold coffee hours where voters can ask questions on issues."

Bonavita, an Attorney with Bonavita, Walsh & Fogarty, resides at 683 Cooper Street, Agawam, with his wife, Adele, and their two children, Carlo and Franca. Both children have graduated from Agawam High School and now attend college.

John O'Brien of Feeding Hills serves as Bonavita's campaign committee chairman. O'Brien added, "Anthony is asking for the voters' opinions on the issues. He wants to know what issues are important to them. We believe coffee hours will help in that process."

Therefore, anyone who wants to schedule a coffee hour can contact Bonavita at 786-2079, O'Brien at 786-7438, or committee member Marie Kellogg at 789-8681.

Attorney Richard C. Morassi Announces His Candidacy For The Agawam City Council

Attorney Richard C. Morassi of 206 Maynard Street has announced his plans to run for Agawam City Council, stating, "I am running for Council because I care about the quality of life in Agawam for all of us, but especially for the children and then the seniors. I feel my vocational and personal experiences have given me something worthwhile to contribute. The people of Agawam have given me a great deal over the years, and I would like to give something more back."

Attorney Morassi graduated from Agawam High School in 1959, the University of Massachusetts in 1964, and Boston University Law School in 1967 (where he was in the top 10 percent of his class). He has been a member of the Massachusetts Bar since 1967, and has been a sole practitioner for over 25 years, serving primarily Agawam residents.

During this time, he served the community as Associate City Solicitor for over 10 years. In this capacity, he was involved with most aspects of municipal law, including the Council, with a concentration concerning land use issues such as planning, zoning, subdivision control, acquisition, wetland regulation, assessment, and various Board of Appeals matters.

As a strong and consistent advocate for higher quality education in the Agawam School System, he was awarded the Friend of Education Award in 1988. In 1987, he was recruited by teachers at the High School to help organize a parent-teacher-student group for that school. This group was very active in the late 1980's, and Attorney Morassi served as its moderator.

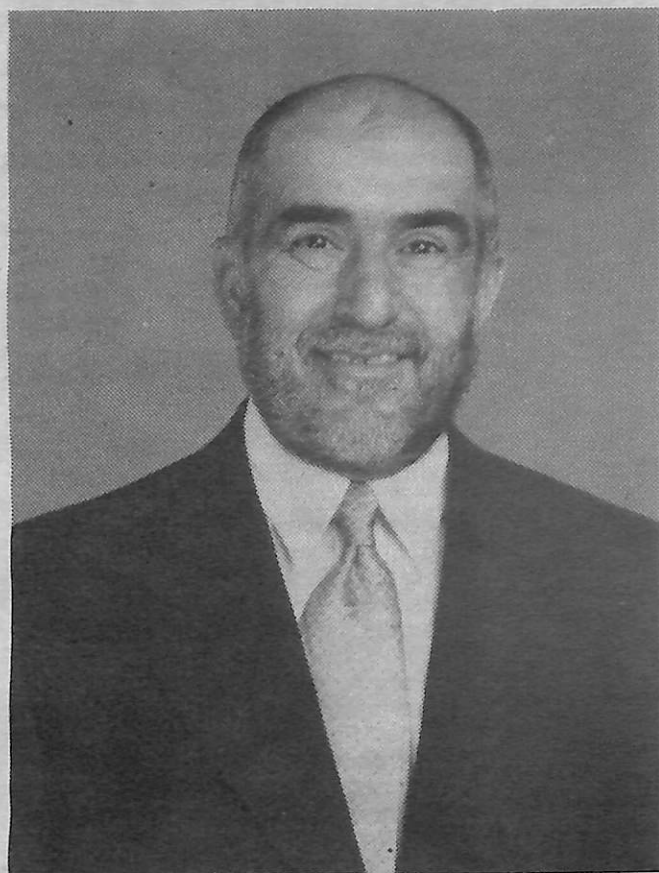
One program he organized with teachers Joanne Brown and Judi Lech was called the Superintendent's Symposium, which brought together students, parents, teachers, administrators, School Committee and Council members, and representatives of the business community to discuss the state of education at the High School. This unique program was held annually for five years.

Since 1987, he has been a special needs volunteer in various Agawam schools and a strong advocate for the inclusion of special needs students in the public schools wherever possible.

He states, "The primary consideration is the invaluable benefit the special needs students and regular ed students give each other when they share the educational experience together, but the financial savings are also very important in this time of limited resources. Inclusion is a win-win situation."

Attorney Morassi was a charter member and first president of the Agawam Community Credit Union, which was organized in 1975. The field of membership was then opened to all residents of the community. Prior to that time, only town employees had had access to credit union membership.

In 1987, Morassi participated in arranging the merger of the Town Employees Credit Union and the Community Credit Union, forming the Agawam Federal Credit Union (now open to all



ATTORNEY RICHARD C. MORASSI

who live and work in town).

Since 1977, he has been a member of Agawam UNICO (a community service organization), and served as its president from 1995 to 1997. From 1978 to 1984, he was a coach in the Agawam Athletic Association.

He is married to Linda A. Morassi, who is the integrated kindergarten teacher at Granger School and also an attorney. They have one daughter, Christina, who is a photographer in New York City.

A campaign committee has been formed, with Ed Modzelewski and Gene Mutti serving as co-chairmen and Bruce Jacobsen as treasurer.

The rest of the committee consists of Sal Morassi, Sr., Sal Morassi, Jr., Barbara Chase, Art Chase, Lynn Martinelli, Tom Martinelli, Louis Tsounis, Janis Phaneuf, Tom Phaneuf, Charlotte Venturini, Jean Goss, Rudy Altobelli, Joanne Brown, Carol Pietroniro, Joanne Rocca, Peter Rocca, Sheryl Fleming, John Fleming, Very Conway, Vin Conway, Leeann McKeever, Steve McKeever, Judy Nannini, Gene Nannini, Dot Marchetto, Denis Marchetto, Sr., Denis Marchetto, Jr., Pam Jacobsen, Gloria Page, and Dave Page.

Anyone wishing to participate in the campaign should feel free to contact Ed Modzelewski at 786-0593, Gene Mutti at 786-7644, or Rich Morassi at 789-9970.

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Campaign '99 - continued...

A Priority Of This Mayoral Candidate...

Cohen Wants More Economic Development Of Vacant Retail Space

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

There's nothing conventional about the political wisdom in Agawam, and Richard A. Cohen, 47 Alexander Drive, Agawam, is hoping to be the third dark horse candidate to prove it in his first run for elective office.

Running against three politically experienced candidates, including the current and former Town Council president, Cohen is not alone in his belief that by focusing on his campaign, he has a good shot at upsetting the political applecart just as State Rep. Daniel Keenan did in his first bid for elective office five years ago, and just as Christopher Johnson did in the first mayoral primary 11 years ago.

Some of the savviest players and observers in the political game here are privately saying they believe Cohen could surprise the politically complacent and become the second mayor in Agawam history if he does what it takes to meet the voters and let them know where he stands on the issues.

As for the candidate himself, Cohen is focusing on his own campaign rather than on attacking or criticizing the other candidates.

"We have a lot to do and we know what we have to do to win," Cohen said. "I'm running because I think it's time for a change, and I've been using this analogy to explain my candidacy: *Dr. Zhivago* is an award-winning movie with award-winning performances by the actors, but no matter how many times you watch it, you know how it ends. The people in office now have done a great job — they're the Oscar winners, but now it's time for a change."

Equating political experience with politics as usual, Cohen promises "an open door, a listening ear, a big heart, and someone who cares about the issues and about the people" if the voters choose him as their next mayor.

Opting for a relatively low-budget campaign, Cohen will be relying heavily on coffee hours in people's homes to give the voters a chance to meet him in an informal setting and get to know him as Rich Cohen, the person, rather than Rich Cohen, someone who's running for mayor.

"We don't believe in wasting money in the campaign, just as I don't believe in wasting the taxpayers' money," Cohen said.

Cohen refers to his campaign committee, comprised of citizens ranging in age from 17 to 77, as his team. As the team leader, Cohen stresses consideration, humility, and listening to everyone. People are encouraged to check out the campaign web site at [HTTP://Rich.Cohen.Net](http://Rich.Cohen.Net) or get in touch through E-mail at Richard@Cohen.Net or by phone at 789-4566.

"When we leave our team meeting, it's very upbeat and I feel great. The meetings are getting bigger and bigger, and we're all very excited," Cohen said.

Working With The Planning Board...

In the area of economic development, Cohen would like to see a mayor's committee on economic development to work with the Planning Board to attract viable stores and businesses into vacant retail space in the shopping centers and already-existing empty buildings, like the Mac's SoftServe stand on Springfield Street.

"Why aren't we filling those stores and bringing in people to develop what we already have?" Cohen asked. "Why do our people have to travel to Westfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and Northampton to shop in their beautiful shopping centers and strip malls? People can spend their money here, just as well. It would cost businesses less to use what we already have. It would prevent more and more development of open space and yet bring in more tax money."

Cohen sees the proposed Connecticut River-Walk and Bikeway as an opportunity for the town to look into ways to have the linear park incorporated into an economic development plan. He'd like to see a mayor's office for cultural affairs combined with the historical commission to work on projects that will help keep the town as viable, exciting, and beautiful as it is.

"Why not a 'Taste of Agawam' like those that are so successful in surrounding communities?" Cohen asked. "We have some wonderful restaurants here: Carpaccio's, Michael's, E.B.'s, and American Classics, just to name a few."

As for the controversy over the Berkshire Power Plant, Cohen believes it is time to stop fighting against a facility that is here to stay and start working together for the best interest of the community.

"I want to be their friendly neighbor and I'd like to work with them. I agree that it's too bad the Town Council doesn't have local control, but instead of arguing with them, we should be working

with them and making sure they pay their fair share of taxes," Cohen said. "I'm not against Berkshire Power and the referendum question did pass, so the people did say they want the plant."

Other Issues...

Other issues Cohen wants to tackle as mayor include sewers in Feeding Hills; road reconstruction, especially on North Westfield Street and in North Agawam; a third ambulance to be stationed in Feeding Hills to cut down the six- to eight-minute response time from the Main Street fire station; better health insurance coverage with less than the 50-percent premium employee contribution currently in place; and the creation of a program of recruiting volunteer liaisons from specific segments of the community (i.e., senior citizens, youth, etc.) to meet with the mayor and discuss the issues and needs facing their constituency.

"I don't want people to say the mayor is not listening to them," Cohen said. "Granted, you can't please everybody. But you can sure try. If I'm elected, I am going to aim for the stars and I believe I'll hit it. I've done that in every job I've ever had; it's the way we were raised. If you're going to do something, you should do it right, but don't hurt anybody on the way."

An 11-year Agawam resident, Cohen is a 1983 graduate of Springfield College. Since 1985, he has worked at STCC and is currently the Veterans' Affairs administrator in the School of Continuing Education, where his duties include fiscal management, academic counseling, staffing, and facilities coordination.

Before joining the STCC administration, Cohen worked as a long-term substitute teacher in the Longmeadow School Department from 1983 to 1985.

Cohen is the twin brother of AHS guidance counselor Alan Cohen.

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Paid Political Ad

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For Information, Call Campaign Co-Chairmen
Korby & Pete Clark, 786-2113
Rudy Altobelli, 786-1577

Negrucchi Addresses Open Space Issues

"As the City of Agawam acquires an inventory of open space, the real challenge facing us as a community is the conversion of these parcels of land into working, viable areas for recreational needs and leisure activities for all of the people of Agawam," said City Councilor and candidate for reelection John Negrucchi in a press statement this week.

Negrucchi stated, "I am particularly concerned that these areas will serve the youth activities and athletic needs at all levels."

He further commented, "The true value of this athletic participation is not just the games and ball fields, but rather the benefit it gives our children as part of the educational experience. If we can provide these opportunities for youth participation, we will insure a foundation that will help develop positive values for all the children of Agawam."

"Our work is before us. We, as a community, can acquire all the open space we can afford, but if we don't convert that land into functional space, we haven't truly gained on our needs or our responsibility to the youth of Agawam," Negrucchi said.

"We have discussed this issue at length. I will make this one of my top priorities if given the opportunity to serve another term as your City Councilor."

"If you would like to discuss this issue or any other issue," Negrucchi concluded, "please contact me at 789-2887 or Billy Euliano at 786-0441."

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, September 23, 1999 at 7:00 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Lewin for property located on River Road.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: September 16, 1999



Campaign '99 - continued...

Councilor Robert M. Young Announces Bid For Reelection

Agawam Town Councilor Robert M. Young has announced his candidacy for reelection. Though only in his first term and first experience in elective public office, Young believes that his strong leadership ability and hard work have contributed greatly to the town over the past two years.

Young cited his accomplishments over the past two years as demonstration of his contributions to the town and commitment to the office.

In his first year on the Council, Young revived the long-abandoned Street Acceptance Committee as chairman and led the updating and revision of the Town Ordinance and Town Council Rules & Regulations, governing the acceptance of new streets and public ways in the town. This committee had previously not been active for over 10 years. Young continues to work as a member of this committee to address the large backlog of unaccepted streets in Agawam.

In addition, Young was one of only two councilors selected by the Town Council President and the Mayor to serve on the town's Zoning Task Force and serves as its secretary.

At the start of 1999, Young was asked to tackle another longstanding project by chairing the Town Council's Rules & Regulations Committee and working to revamp them.

Also, Councilor Young is a member of the Mayor's Recreation Assessment Committee and served this spring as a member of the search committee for the town's new Parks & Recreation Director.

Young is the Associate Director of Field Technology Relations and Quality Assurance at MassMutual Life Insurance Company in Springfield.

At MassMutual, Young has served on the central United Way Committee and, in 1999, sponsored one of only two Eagle Scouts from Agawam.

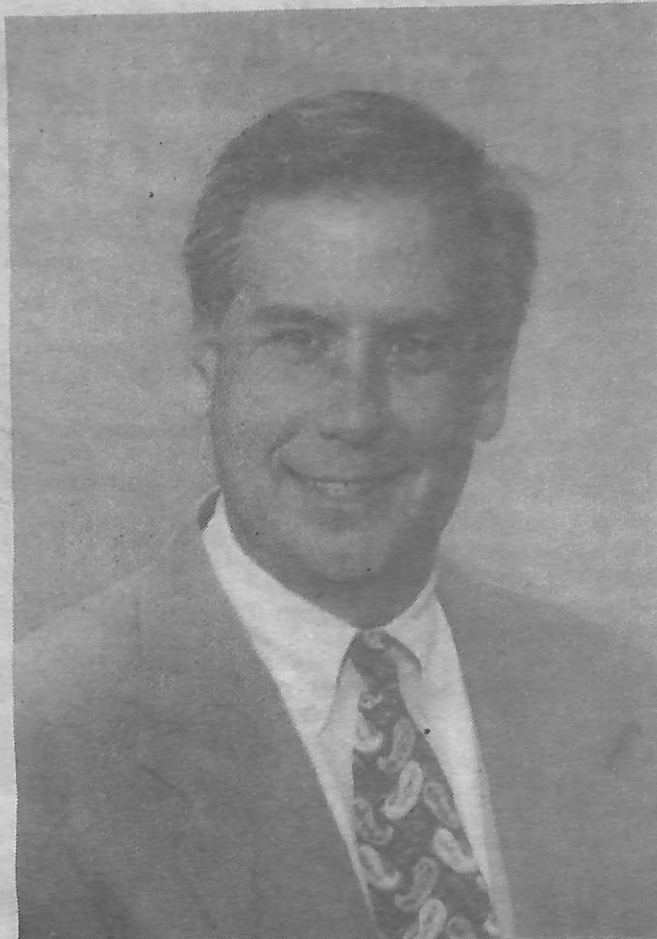
Additionally, Young founded the Youth Lacrosse program in Agawam through the Parks & Recreation Department in 1998, and is the co-founder of the Agawam High School Boys' Lacrosse Booster Club. Councilor Young also serves on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Valley Lacrosse Club, which (founded in 1956) is the second-oldest club of its kind in the nation.

Councilor Young, who lives with his wife, Karla Mancini Young, and their three children at 216 South Westfield Street in Feeding Hills, is a 1985 graduate of Springfield College and was trained in negotiation skills at Harvard.

Young was a member of Springfield College's 1985 NCAA Tournament lacrosse team and is a member of the Springfield College Varsity Club. Young is the son of a local expert and author on Connecticut Valley Indians, William R. Young and Dr. Beth Young of East Longmeadow.

He concluded, "I have worked hard over the past year-and-a-half to learn as much as I can about the issues and opportunities facing the citizens of Agawam. I believe that this Council has changed the face of Agawam government and look forward to continuing to serve this great town in the year 2000 and beyond.

"If anyone wishes to contribute, help, or would like a sign, they may contact my campaign manager, Joseph Calabrese at 786-3977, or myself at 786-8995."



ROBERT M. YOUNG

Attorney Gina-Marie Letellier Seeks Reelection To Agawam City Council

Agawam City Councilor Attorney Gina-Marie Letellier is proud to announce that she is a candidate for reelection to the Agawam City Council.

"It has been my honor and privilege to serve my fellow citizens as City Councilor. If reelected, I promise to continue to work hard to preserve Agawam's sense of community while keeping a watchful eye towards the future and meeting the challenges of the new millennium.

"In my first campaign, I stressed the need for Agawam to update its zoning code and address issues such as adult use zones. These were not empty campaign promises. As chair of the City Council's Zoning Review subcommittee, I was instrumental in drafting and passing the current Adult Entertainment Zoning Ordinance. Serving as chair of the citywide Zoning Review Task Force, I have worked with fellow councilors, citizens, business owners, and other city officials in updating, modernizing, and recodifying Agawam's current zoning ordinances. The ordinance we will present to the Council will allow Agawam to meet the challenges of 21st century zoning issues while preserving the charm and character of the City known as the Town of Agawam.

"If reelected, I promise to put the same energy and dedication that I have put into zoning issues into public safety, recreation, and senior citizen issues. The scandals which have plagued the Police Department in recent years only reinforce the need for citizen participation in oversight and review. Since there will not be a Charter Review



GINA-MARIE LETELLIER

Commission for at least two more years, I will be the driving force behind the creation of a Public Safety Commission and/or a Police and Fire Commission. I plan to work with the next Mayor and Ci-

ty Solicitor to draft appropriate legislation to create these new commissions," said Letellier.

"I will share my plans to address recreational needs, senior needs, and Senior Center needs in future press releases. If you wish to discuss these or any other matters, please do not hesitate to contact me."

Gina-Marie Letellier is a lifelong, fourth generation resident of Agawam. Attorney Letellier graduated with Honors from Agawam High School, received a B.A. with Honors from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and received her J.D. from Western New England College School of Law.

In addition to being a member of the City Council, Attorney Letellier serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Agawam-West Springfield Open Pantry and the Agawam Rotary Club, is Chair of the Agawam Democratic Committee, the Zoning Review Task Force, and the Agawam Rotary McCarroll Scholarship Committee, and an annual participant in the Agawam Park and Recreation Department's Women's Softball League.

If you would like to participate in the Letellier campaign, volunteer on Election Day, want a sign, or wish to make a contribution, you can reach Gina at 739-2112 in the day and 786-4723 in the evening. She can also be reached on the web at ginaletellier@aol.com. Monetary contributions can be mailed to the Committee to Elect Gina Letellier, 150 Maple Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you.

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Campaign '99 - continued...

Thompson On The Campaign Trail



IN LEFT PHOTO: Agawam City Councilor Nancy E. Thompson, a candidate for Mayor, waves to motorists at the entrance to Agawam near the Morgan Sullivan Bridge. IN TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Edwina Lessard (campaign committee member) and Thompson hold signs in the center of Feeding Hills. IN LOWER RIGHT PHOTO: At the recent Riverside Soccer Classic at Agawam Junior High School - Faith Footit, Agawam City Councilor Jill Simpson, and Thompson.

Kasparian Outlines Components Of His Tax Relief Proposal

"The recent request of the City Council by Mayor Johnson to reduce the real estate tax rate which would reportedly return \$75 to \$100 to the residential taxpayer is a great first step in the tax relief needs for the citizens of Agawam," said Abe Kasparian, candidate for Mayor, in a press statement this week.

"However, without long-term stability with property values, the tax relief that was sought by the Mayor's office and which received a favorable vote by the City Council, will amount to nothing more than a political placebo.

"If I was Mayor, and had my druthers," said Kasparian, "I would offer a tax relief proposal which would include the following components:

"(1) A commitment from the city not to increase the value of residential properties for a period of six years.

"(2) To reduce only residential property tax. This approach would increase the dollar amount to approximately \$300 per residential property, and insure that amount each year for at least six years.

"(3) For the elderly and disabled, who still enjoy ownership of their own home, the city would provide additional services such as shoveling their walks, and mowing their tree belt areas in the summertime. As we all know, there are strict city ordinances for maintenance of tree belts and sidewalks. If we, as a community, are truly concerned with quality of life issues, then we can start, and demonstrate our compassion and assist our seniors in this manner.

"(4) To create a real estate tax credit for those citizens who own condominiums within the meets and bounds of Agawam. Condominium owners are faced with a "double taxation" scenario. These owners pay full real estate tax on their condos. However, they also pay a condo association fee on a monthly fee. This association fee includes such services as plowing of the streets within their complex, removal of trash, street lighting, repair and maintenance of sidewalks and infrastructure, and streets. Since many of our condo owners are retirees, it seems to be an unequitable financial structure for them to pay twice for the same services.

"As Mayor of Agawam, I would work diligently with our town solicitor, state representative, and state senator to set aside political rhetoric and create tax relief for this overburdened segment of the population.

"Agawam has financial resources to be able to fund these quality of life issues. That is what government is supposed to do; provide quality services for its citizens at reasonable cost.

"Agawam's free cash fund is quite plentiful. We would not, by my estimation, deplete the account. We would be merely giving back to our citizens what is rightfully theirs and providing quality services.

SEE KASPARIAN - Page 18...

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READ:
2 Corinthians 5:1-11

We walk by faith, not by sight.
—2 Corinthians 5:7

Constructed to give people the illusion of walking on air, "The Walk of Faith" is a platform of laminated glass at the top of a 385-foot tower in Blackpool, England. An *Associated Press* photo showed a woman at the edge of the invisible walkway, fists clenched against her face, trying to summon the courage to take a step. She had been told the platform was safe, but she was still afraid.

Sometimes we feel that way about our circumstances. Perhaps a serious health problem has caused us to question the power and the presence of God.

It's encouraging to note that Paul's familiar words "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7) occur in his discussion about being "absent from the body and . . . present with the Lord" (v.8). He used a powerful metaphor, calling our body an earthly house that's being destroyed, yet he said we have a heavenly building made by God. He spoke of groaning in our earthly frailty and longing for our heavenly home. He concluded that no matter what circumstances we face, we should make it our goal to please the Lord (v.9).

Our walk of faith can be challenging and sometimes scary. But because God is powerful and present, we can step out in confidence today. —DCM

*The Lord wants us to walk by faith,
Because our eyes can be deceived;
And even though our path may fade,
God's Word can always be believed. —Sper*

**IT IS BETTER TO WALK WITH GOD BY FAITH
THAN TO GO ALONE BY SIGHT.**

Campaign '99 - continued...*Through The Lottery Process...***Mayoral Candidates
Jockey For Position
On the Ballot**

Each election year, the City Clerk, with carnival-like style, presents a wooden box to the gathered candidates. In the wooden box are folded pieces of paper with numbers written on them, secured by a paper clip. The box door is then opened by the City Clerk, and the candidate places their hand into the box and, by chance, pulls out a piece of paper that holds the number that will position them on the ballot. The protocol for the elected offices is mayoral candidates first, City Councilors next, followed by School Committee hopefuls.

City Clerk Richard Theroux invited all the mayoral candidates to City Hall on September 9th to choose their place on the ballot by Agawam's quaint, traditional method of lottery for this year's primary race, which is on October 5th.

With a carnival-like atmosphere, the conference room adjacent to City Clerk Theroux's office was filled with anticipation. The contestants lined up with hopes of being number one.

There was candidate Thompson, candidate Kasparian, and candidate Rheault. The only candidate that was a no-show was candidate Cohen, who took home the big prize. You see, when a candidate or a nominee for the candidate is not present, the City Clerk designates a staff person to draw for the absent candidate. That is precisely what happened on September 9th — the number drawn for Cohen propelled him to the first-place position on the ballot.

Like a "carney" at the old town fair, City Clerk Theroux then called candidate Kasparian's name. Kasparian, with the enthusiasm of the event and the spirit of the town's tradition, placed his hand into the small wooden box placed before him. His hand emerged from the box, his heart pounding with the excitement of the historic moment, and he removed the paper clip, revealing the number three position on the ballot.

Next was Don Rheault. Candidate Rheault reached deep into the box with a trembling hand ... would he get a two or a four? ... a hush fell over the room, and the other candidates watched with anticipation as Don opened the folded, clipped piece of paper. Time seemed to stand still, as you could hear the crinkling sound of paper unfolding.

KASPARIAN - from Page 17...

"Agawam revenues is approximately \$47 million annually. With its expenditures at approximately \$44 million, the city is in the black and that gain exists at the expense of the citizens of



THREE OF THE FOUR CANDIDATES for Mayor of Agawam were present for the drawing of the ballot position for this year's historic mayoral primary election. On the far left is candidate Nancy Thompson, in the center is Abe Kasparian, and directly to the right of candidate Kasparian is candidate Donald Rheault.

Rheault revealed quietly to a friend, and to candidate Kasparian standing beside him, the number four. I think you could hear a sigh of relief from candidate Kasparian, as the only number left in the box was a number two. All that was needed for her to do was to reach into the box. Kasparian thought he felt a hand on his shoulder, as she seemed to shove him out of the way to get to the box before the "carney" could shut off the game! She made it just in time and claimed number two.

Candidate Kasparian was pleased, not so much for the number or position on the ballot, but because of the good-natured camaraderie of all the contestants at this year's historic event at City Hall. We had a few laughs and, at 5:30 in the afternoon, the positioning for this year's mayoral primary had been chosen through the bewitching

tradition.

Candidate Kasparian urges all voters to come out on primary day, October 5th, and cast a ballot in the mayoral primary. The taxpayers and the voters are paying for this primary.

This year, the primary has been arranged only for the mayoral race. This is the first time in five election years that Mayor Johnson has chosen not to run. It is important for all of us who are concerned about the future for our children and all our other loved ones, as well as the future of our community, to learn as much about each candidate as they can and make an informed, independent choice.

Please go out and vote on October 5th.

Visit "Mayor Abe's" web site at <http://www.angelfire.com/ma2/mayorabe>.

Our deadline is every Tuesday at noon. We open at 6:30 a.m.



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Campaign '99 - continued...

Kasparian Thanks The Visitors To His Web Site

Mayoral candidate Kasparian recognizes that there appears to be two web sites dedicated to the mayoral race — candidate Thompson's and that of candidate Kasparian.

Kasparian's site includes important Agawam municipal information such as library schedules and staff members, as well as an overview of Agawam's balance sheet. When you visit "Mayor Abe's" web site, just click on "Agawam's information" and scroll down to "at a glance report," and you will be updated with information such as revenues, expenditures, and education expenditures.

The web site also includes Kasparian's pending legislation, press reports, Commonwealth of Mass. information, his own personal message to the community, his stands on the Senior Center, real estate taxes, the need for a police commission, and perhaps the most fun of all ... "voting for dollars."

Candidate Kasparian did review candidate Thompson's site. He noted two interesting items on Thompson's site. First, the Thompson site has a viewer counter much like candidate Kasparian's site has. The difference is that Thompson's site displays a viewer count of 1,290, while candidate Kasparian's site displays a proud number of 1,875. This demonstrates the interest in this historic race.

Candidate Kasparian was also very pleased to see the support that Thompson has for then-Hampden County Commissioner Kasparian, who presented the Agawam City Council with the plan designed by Paine and Company of Westfield for approximately 15 new industrial sites in then-county-owned land in Feeding Hills.

Kasparian, while County Commissioner, had learned that while the state planned to take over the county, it was considering the construction of a new jail site in Feeding Hills across from the Police Training Academy on county-owned land. Then-County Commissioner Kasparian set off with a plan to thwart the effort of the state to build a prison in Agawam/Feeding Hills, and instead create a new industrial park that would mirror both in zoning restrictions and character what we know today to be West Mass Industrial Park.

Commissioner Kasparian worked closely with Alan Blair, president of West MassArea Development Corp., to review the industrial inventory in the area and determine the feasibility of such a development. Plans were drafted and submitted to City Council at a public meeting by Commissioner Kasparian. The proposed idea of a second industrial park was met with great enthusiasm and energy by the community and its leaders.

"This took place nearly a year-and-a-half ago and although, as of today, the 200-plus acres of Feeding Hills — now owned by the state — lie fallow. It would serve the taxpayers of Agawam greatly to move this plan off the back burners and away from the campaign rhetoric and make this become a reality. Why is this so important to Agawam? It is another way to increase the city's revenue, find good industrial work for our citizens, for our children, reduce the tax burden on the residential taxpayer, and to increase the quality of life and the long-term prosperity of our community," mayoral candidate Kasparian said.

"I would like to thank candidate Thompson for adopting a proposal that was set forth by the County Commission," he added.

Candidate Kasparian urges everyone to become involved in the upcoming primary election on October 5th and visit his web site at <http://www.angelfire.com/ma2/mayorabe>.

Ziti Fundraiser For Rheault Campaign

Mayoral candidate Don Rheault (pronounced "Rowe") has finalized plans for his fundraiser dinner. The date is Wednesday, September 22nd at the Polish American Club from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

A ziti and meatball dinner will be prepared by "Bill" Farwell and assisted by a host of volunteers, according to campaign managers Pete & Korby Clark.

This will be a "casual dinner" in an informal setting where families and friends can enjoy a very inexpensive dinner and meet with Don.

If, for some reason, you do not receive tickets in the mail, they will be available at the door. The interest level has been very high and all are invited.

For more information, or if you want to help, call Pete or Korby Clark at 786-2113 or Rudy Altobelli at 786-1577.

Mayoral Candidate Cohen States His Position On Various Local Issues

Rich Cohen, candidate for Mayor of Agawam, issued the following campaign statement this week:

Political Experience - Politics As Usual!

"I'm busy working for YOU. If you don't see my sign, think of me. I'm conscious of money, as I will be with YOURS!!

Education

"The number-one priority is an educational system that works to allow all students the opportunity to obtain the highest quality instruction, in a non-threatening environment with a faculty and staff that care. We must bring the educational system into the new technological age that we all now live in, and make sure that our schools maintain their accreditation."

Berkshire Power

"Citizens of Agawam should have been given a choice with a binding referendum question, but since this did not happen, I can only promise to keep all of the population of Agawam involved in the future developments between their Town and Berkshire Power. We cannot change the past, but we can all have a positive impact on the future. So, as I am getting involved, I ask that you also take an interest in this election and also get involved. Hopefully, in this fashion we can be a 'friendly neighbor.'"

Riverside Park

"Riverside Park is a wonderful attraction for Agawam and the New England region. The tax

base and revenue it brings to the Town help to keep the tax rate down. They provide a tremendous work environment for our youth during the summer. Their scholarship program, and other Town incentives they provide, help to make Agawam an exciting place to live. However, I promise to continue to work with Town officials and the management of Riverside Park to alleviate the traffic issues that we all care about so much."

Parks And Recreation

"We must, as a Town, maintain the high level of programs for our young, our middle-aged, and our elderly, to ensure that the needs of all our citizens and their families are met in a most positive, timely, and cost-effective manner.

"The above four issues, I feel, are important and should be addressed in this campaign. These four areas directly affect all Agawam residents, both financially and individually.

"As the new Alternative Candidate, I will make sure the citizens of Agawam have a 'say' in these areas and that the highest priorities are given, so as to have a positive impact on ALL residents of ALL ages. A new, young, and community-motivated person, like myself, will ensure that this will happen.

"Please vote Cohen, The Alternative Choice, with New Ideas. Thank you," he concluded.

For further information, contact Rich at 789-4566.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

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Families

On Saturday, September 11th...

Second "Buddy Walk" For Down Syndrome Society

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Last Saturday, September 11th, the Second Annual Buddy Walk for the National Down Syndrome Society was held. It kicked off in the morning at Agawam High School on a beautiful, sunny day. There were perhaps 300 people in attendance from all areas of the community: parents, children, the church, politicians, and the Agawam Fire Department.

The organizer for the two years has been Sue Lucia, whose family owns Lucia Lumber right here in Agawam, on Silver Street. It is a big task, but according to Sue, it's well worth it and done out of love.

She explained, "Three years ago, my daughter, April, was born and diagnosed with Down Syndrome. That's how I got involved with the NDSS. Every year since 1979 they've had what they call a 'Buddy Walk.' It's nationwide and also includes part of Canada. The purpose of the walk, and last year more than 30,000 people across America, plus Canada, were involved, is not to raise money, but to raise awareness of Down Syndrome."

Sue said that there is a certain stigma to Down Syndrome. "The Society wants everyone to know that people with Down Syndrome are not intimidating. They need love, caring, and deserve respect. Awareness can make people realize that those are vital things that everyone should have in their lives."

Many times parents with Down Syndrome children don't make it known that the child has the genetic defect. Sue did, and the NDSS contacted her. "They sent letters to me and called. They were supportive. Then I decided last year to initiate a Buddy Walk for Western Massachusetts. They instructed me how to do it. Through our lumber company and my husband, Steve, we networked with other people around this part of the state and things just took off."

SEE "BUDDY WALK" - Page 21...



AT THE "BUDDY WALK": top photo - firefighters Bob Briggs, Dan Terlik, and Karl Schmaelzle; photo below - Bob Fuller with some of his help from the Outback Steakhouse.

Advertiser News photos by Dave Rollins.



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Candlelight Ceremony

The Wilson-Thompson Post No. 185 American Legion and Legion Auxiliary is holding a candlelight ceremony to honor Massachusetts' POW's/MIA's from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Sunday, September 26, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. Collation to follow at Wilson-Thompson Post.

We would like to invite you and your family to attend this most solemn and patriotic observance. For more information or any questions, call (413) 789-9844 or E-mail: MEM185@AOL.com.

Respectfully,

Samuel J. Gallant
Samuel J. Gallant
Post Commander

Mary Ellen Morissette
Mary Ellen Morissette
Auxiliary President
District 3 POW/MIA Chairperson

"BUDDY WALK" - from Page 20...

The walk, held nationally the first week in October, couldn't be held at that time in Agawam because The Big E takes over the High School parking lot. "There would be no room and that's where we wanted to have the location in town," Sue said. "So, we decided on the 11th of September. It has worked out so well, both last year and this year."

One- Or Three-Mile Walk

From the festivities in front of the High School, people could walk either one or three miles. Parents with Down Syndrome kids and people from all over registered and they all walked together, many pushing tots in strollers. State Representative Daniel F. Keenan was there. He ran the three-mile route. "Dan was great. He finished all sweaty and exhausted, but happy," Sue said.

There were many events throughout the day besides the walk. Clowns from Pioneer Valley Clown Alley No. 225 painted colorful designs on the faces of anyone who wanted it done.

The Agawam Fire Department parked Engine Company number two in the lot along with a town EMT ambulance and the firefighters (Bob Briggs, Dan Terlik, Karl Schmaelzle, and Lieutenant Ken Avondo) gave tours of the two vehicles to the kids. Lenny Blews and his daughter, Sherri, from Aspen Hill Farms in Agawam, gave pony rides for a dollar apiece to the kids. Lenny then turned all the money over to the Buddy Walk.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the day had to be the food. Bob Fuller (until recently, a resident of Agawam), the owner of the Outback Steakhouse in West Springfield, showed up with a big grill, chicken, and hamburgers with all the fixings (tomatoes, lettuce, onions, cheese, buns, and condiments), along with a dozen or so people who work for him at the restaurant.

"When I was organizing all this, Bob was one of the people I talked to. He asked me all kinds of questions about the event. He said the food would be there because he was looking for something he felt was very important to put the Outback name on," Sue said. Then she added the best and most heartwarming part: "Everything was free. Everyone working there donated their time and energy. They are all such great and caring people."

There was also a big raffle, which handed out 61 great gifts donated by people and companies from all over the region.

Part of the ceremonies had to do with Keenan reading a proclamation from NDSS explaining their aims and goals.

250,000 People Nationwide

According to Sue, there are over 250,000 people nationwide who suffer from Down Syndrome. "There are 55 right here in our area that I know of. We learned of eight in just the last year. Many people just don't want to divulge that their children are afflicted," she said.

To that end, she is in charge of Parents' First Call, which is part of the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress. "It gives those parents a chance to seek guidance," she noted.

She gave her own number, 786-6393, as one of them. Or you can call (toll-free) 1-800-664-MDSC. There is also a web site - www.mdsc.org.

Sue wanted to thank one and all. "Yes," she smiled in closing, "I'll be back to do it again next year."

Sponsors or contributors for the Buddy Walk included Outback Steakhouse, Lucia Lumber, Riverside Park, McDonald's, Aqua Cook Pure Bottled Water, A.W. Hastings & Company, Inc., and Fred C. Froebel Insurance Agency.

* * *

For all the local church, social, educational, and municipal news, be sure to turn to the ADVERTISER NEWS each and every week; you will be glad you did...

* * *



PARTICIPATING IN THE Second Annual "Buddy Walk," which kicked off on Saturday morning, September 11th, at Agawam High School (from left to right: Steve Lucia, Jr., Steve Lucia, Sr., Sue Lucia, Bob Fuller, and April Lucia. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.



THE "BUDDY WALK" was definitely a family affair: Lenny Blews with his daughter, Sherri, and Diane Pirro with her son, Dom. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

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Melanie Wells Enjoys Being A "Big Sister"

Asked what she remembered most while waiting to be matched to her Little Sister, Melanie Wells replied, "I was hoping that she would be a tom-boy, because I was a tom-boy growing up. But, I was totally wrong. Cassie is a very together person. She is a girly-girl; she likes clothes; she's cool, very up-to-date and she keeps me on my toes!"

Cassie Smith of Chicopee is a seventh grade honor roll student and loves to play soccer. She enjoys pop and rap music and is an avid listener of 95.7-FM rock radio that features artists such as N, Sync and the Back Street Boys. Her favorite music is *Titanic* and she admires its star Kate Winslet as Rose, a survivor of the famous ship disaster. Melanie listens to NPR (National Public Radio) programming during her long commute to Hartford. She enjoys *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition* with Bob Edwards. She likes the pop group, Barenaked Ladies. Melanie doesn't have much time to watch TV but she enjoys reading Stephen King novels at bedtime. *The Talisman* is her favorite.

Setting Aside Time

Melanie, a resident of Feeding Hills but soon to relocate closer to work in Connecticut, has been matched to 12-year-old Cassandra for a year-and-a-half. A CPA, Melanie is the chief financial officer for the Hartford United Way agency. She and her spouse, Matt, are both studying in the accelerated MBA program at Western New England College (WNEC). The couple decided to concentrate on earning the degree together, although it meant that they would be in classes every Saturday and Sunday for an entire year, including the heat of the summer.

Despite her busy schedule, Melanie makes sure that there is time set aside for being with Cassie. "Up until that time, Cassie and I would meet every other Sunday, all day. With my new schedule, we now meet every Monday night," she explained.

Dual Effort

One of their recent activities is cooking dinner at Melanie's house. "It's a dual effort. We each make certain dishes, eat, and then we clean up after the meal," said Cassie. Melanie and Cassie enjoy the board games, *Sabrina* and *Charades*. They have spent time surfing the Internet on Melanie's powerful Pentium computer.

Cassie said they enjoyed several "team oriented" activities such as singing a Karaoke duet of the Spice Girl song, *To Become One*. Cassie laughingly recalls that Melanie talked the lyrics more than she sang them. Like most Big Sisters and Big Brothers matches, one of their favorite activities is eating out. They dined at the West Springfield Outback Steakhouse, a trendy new addition to the Western Massachusetts restaurant scene.

"They had great salads, service, and food," commented Melanie. There are also the standbys, McDonald's and Friendly's. Cassie highly recommends the Coca Cola Cake at the Cracker Barrel restaurant.

Dolphins and Number Crunching

Before she was employed at the United Way, Melanie was an auditor and did a lot of traveling from company to company looking at their books. One day, she invited Cassie to accompany her on an audit to Mystic Aquarium on the Connecticut shore. During a break from the number-crunching, they were treated to a conversation with a dolphin, petted the whales, and enjoyed the sea life.



BIG SISTER MELANIE WELLS OF FEEDING HILLS (left) shares a fashion magazine with her Little Sister, Cassie Smith of Chicopee. Melanie and Cassie enjoy playing board games, cooking, and even singing Karaoke together.

Another time, Cassie joined Melanie in a four-hour statistics class at WNEC. Fearing that Cassie might be bored by the subject, she worried that she might get restless. In fact, said Cassie, she enjoys working with numbers and found the class fascinating and fun. A typical day together is one of food and fun. Melanie picks up Cassie on her way home from work. They go out to eat and then to Holyoke Mall to see what new fashions are available. On a shorter night, they might go back to Melanie's house to play a few games.

Motivated Mentor

Melanie explained why she was motivated to become a volunteer mentor. "I had a lot of mentors of my own growing up. I had positive influences from my teachers, and a special nun who encouraged me to do my best. I want to do the same for Cassie," she explained. "As a Big Sister, I enjoy my relationship with Cassie because I am a huge kid! The fun aspects of being a Big Sister is great. Although I am a very busy person, I find the time. The gain is huge. I probably do more for

myself as a Big Sister than I do for Cassie. The time goes by so fast. We just enjoy the time that we spend together," she reflected.

Melanie's husband, Matt, and her best friend, Lee, are supportive of the match and feel that Cassie is part of their extended family. That also goes for Cassie's family, who have a good relationship with the Wells. They all celebrated this past Christmas together.

Melanie was a big help for the family when Cassie's father was ill last year. Melanie's goals for Cassie are that she continues to do well in school and goes on to college.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampden County matches children from single-parent homes with caring adult mentors from the community. For more information about volunteering to be a Big Brother or Big Sister, call 781-4730 or visit their website at www.bigbrothers-sisters.org. Big Brothers Big Sisters is a Community United Way agency.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice

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REVEREND DONALD MORRIS (left), President of the Agawam Rotary Club, presents the Paul Harris Fellow to **Michael Grandfield**. Looking on is Grandfield's wife, **Kelly**. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Rotary Club Awards Michael Grandfield Paul Harris Fellow

by **Kathy Shepard**
Feature Editor

The Agawam Rotary Club met at Storowton Tavern for a luncheon on Thursday, September 9th to present the Annual Paul Harris Fellow.

Rotarian Michael Grandfield, 1997's Agawam Rotary president and current member of the Agawam Cultural Council, was the recipient. Grandfield is a banker with Simsbury Bank. He graduated from West Springfield High School, got his undergraduate degree from Bryant College, and his master's in business administration from AIC. His wife, Kelly, moved here from New York, and the couple has been married for three months.

Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary in 1905. Businessmen would gather and rotate from various offices for lunch. Rotary Club became a service organization, and today there are 28,000 Rotary Clubs in the world, encompassing 1,250,000 business and professional men and women.

The Paul Harris Fellow is given to a deserving person for community service to fellow human beings. Grandfield and his wife, Kelly, were responsible for coordinating efforts and resources of the Agawam Cultural and the Agawam Rotary Club in bringing about 11 concerts for the Agawam Summer Concert Series. They both enjoy the same kinds of cultural entertainment and were able to use this common bond to the benefit of the concert series.

The Grandfields helped in picking out the bands, working with the town to obtain the needed licensing, and in raising funding. Through cooperation between Rotary, Agawam Cultural Council, and the Town of Agawam, applications for state matching funds were submitted and the concert series was expanded from four concerts last year, attracting about 800 people, to eight concerts and three drive-in movie-concept events, attracting about 12,000 people over the course of the summer.

A group called "Sould Out" brought in \$15,000, and there were both contemporary and traditional acts from Los Angeles, Greenwich Village, and upcoming artists like Sean Altman, founder of Rockapella. The objective of creating a family atmosphere was met successfully and resulted in a successful and enjoyable season, Grandfield said.

Reverend Donald Morris, president of Rotary Club, presided at the meeting and presented the Paul Harris Fellow to Grandfield.

Past President Rosemary Sandlin, the first woman Rotarian in the Agawam Rotary and also the first woman president, sat at the head table with the day's guest speaker, Margretta E. (Meg) Morris of EAC Operations, Inc. in Albany, New York.

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for all the hometown
news...*

CSFS Arts & Crafts Fair On October 3rd

Hurry, hurry, hurry! Time is running out. This is the last chance to reserve a booth at the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of Southwick's annual Arts and Crafts Fair on Sunday, October 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the lawn on the Feeding Hills Road side of Powder Mill Middle School in Southwick.

Artists and crafters are encouraged to reserve a spot now as space is limited. Twelve-foot by 12-foot display areas are available for \$25 for the day.

Please contact Marilyn Wichroski at 569-5897 to reserve your space at the fair.

AHS's Class Of 1944 To Hold 55th Reunion

The Agawam High School Class of 1944 will hold its 55th class reunion on Saturday, October 30th and Sunday, October 31st.

The celebration starts on Saturday evening at the Monte Carlo Restaurant, 1020 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, with a cocktail hour from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30. Your choice of prime rib of roast beef or baked stuffed shrimp for dinner entree will be offered.

On Sunday morning at 10:00, a brunch will be held at the Ivanho Restaurant, 1422 Elm Street, West Springfield.

For further information, call 739-1263, 786-4075, or 786-3642.

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MEMBER F.D.I.C.



To Visit South Korea And The Netherlands...

Area Rotary Clubs Seek Professionals For Goodwill Exchanges

Rotarians of Agawam, Southwick, Springfield, Springfield Sunrise, West Springfield, and Westfield are seeking eight outstanding professionals to visit South Korea and the Netherlands in April of 2000 as part of two Group Study Exchange programs of The Rotary Foundation. Each team comprises four members, plus a Rotarian leader.

Through the program, teams of professionals exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. The awards involve four- to six-week visits during which team members share personal knowledge of their own country and experience the customs, vocations, and lifestyles of another.

The purpose of a Group Study Exchange is to promote international understanding and goodwill through person-to-person contact. While abroad, team members stay in Rotarians' homes and have the opportunity to meet their professional counterparts. They will also give presentations to Rotary Clubs and other groups about their home country.

The Rotary Foundation provides a round-trip air ticket, and local Rotarians in the host country provide meals, lodging, and group travel in their district. Team members pay for personal and incidental expenses.

People interested in applying should be employed full-time in a recognized business or profession for at least two years. Young professionals within an age range of 25 to 40 are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must live or be employed in Rotary District 7890, which covers Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. Applications must be received by October 30, 1999.

For an application or further information, please contact Ellen M. Miles, Assistant District Governor, Area 4, Rotary International District 7890, at (413) 569-0273 (home) or (860) 292-7686 for information and applications. Deadline is September 30, 1999.

A Voluntary Public Service Program...

Agawam Seniors Can Work To Save On Their Property Taxes

Thanks to a program offered through the Town of Agawam, retirees have an opportunity to decrease their property tax bill by participating in a voluntary public service program.

This program started four years ago and has been most successful. Volunteers are required to fill out an application indicating their work experience and skills that may qualify them for potential job openings and the position they would like to perform. Interviews are conducted and the most qualified candidate is selected.

The volunteers must agree to perform 100 hours of community service. For this service, they will receive a \$500 stipend subject to state and federal income taxes. This stipend will be credited to their property tax bill.

In order to be eligible for participation, candidates must be 60 years of age, a homeowner, and a resident of Agawam.

Several positions are available in various town offices. For further information or an application to apply, please visit the Personnel Office at the Agawam Town Hall or the Agawam Senior Center. Application deadline is September 24, 1999.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Senior Athletes Hold Tag Sale & Car Wash...



LAST SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, the Agawam Senior Games Athletes (ASGA) held a fundraising tag sale at the Agawam Senior Center. However, the athletes did have time to celebrate Lena Peloquin's birthday. Standing: Lois Cutler, Harry Ingram, and Vi Presz; seated: Janice Bonk, Jessie Fuller, "birthday girl" Lena Peloquin, and Edie Chiba. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



"LET'S BE SURE WE DON'T MISS A SPOT!!!": In addition to the tag sale, the ASGA raised money by conducting a car wash. The funds raised through these events will be used to offset the costs associated with the next senior games in Orlando, Florida. The car washers included Ted Cutler, Harry Ingram, John Wylie, Angelo Polumbo, Joan Wiczorek, and Carol Lawson. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Our classified ads cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.



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RYAN LONGTIN

Ryan Longtin Completes U.S.A.F. Basic Training

Ryan Longtin graduated from U.S. Air Force basic training, Lackland A.F.B., Texas, on August 6, 1999. He is presently in technical training at Goodfellow A.F.B., Texas.

Upon graduation, he will be a Fire Prevention Specialist and will serve as a reservist at Westover A.F.B. in Chicopee.

Ryan is a 1999 graduate of Agawam High School and will be attending STCC during the spring 2000 semester.

He is the son of Thomas and Susan Longtin, and the brother of Rielly and Cali Longtin, all of Feeding Hills.

On Last Sundays Of The Month...

All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast At The Masonic Lodge Bldg.

An all-you-can-eat breakfast will be served on Sunday, September 26th, and on every last Sunday of each month. This breakfast, open to all, will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Masonic Lodge Building, 53 River Street (just off the Veterans' Bridge between Agawam and West Springfield).

The menu will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, home-fried potatoes, home-made biscuits, coffee, etc. The cost is \$4 for adults, and \$2.50 for children. The Elm-Belcher Lodge is conducting this event as part of its Masonic Awareness Program.

The Elm-Belcher Masonic Lodge of Agawam is about to complete its third year on the Adopt-A-Highway Program, which is conducted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Members of the Elm-Belcher Lodge of Masons are doing this program monthly from April through October. The purpose is to remove litter on Route 57 as posted (approximately two miles). The Commonwealth has placed signs on Route 57 to identify the assigned area.


This activity is being done as part of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Masons Awareness Program.

Crafters Sought For St. Thomas School's Upcoming Craft Fair

Crafters are wanted for the upcoming Craft Fair at St. Thomas School, Westfield St., West Springfield on Saturday, November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you are an area crafter looking for a quality craft fair, call Ann at 789-0015 or Pat at 786-1782. Deadline is September 25th.

ADVERTISER NEWS



"Beauty Corner"
by Mary Ann Zicoella

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Got A Hair, Nail, Or Beauty Problem? Send Us A Note, And We Will Answer It In Our Column...

Last week, I continued with part two of "Through the Years" covering thirties and forties. Now I will finish the series.

PART THREE

Fifties brings on the dreaded "M" word. Not so bad! Think of menopause as a "pause" between all the harder days and the transition into the better ones. This time can cause disturbing changes, but going through gracefully is the secret. As before, life throws curves, so handle them the same way you always have — one at a time and keep in mind it isn't forever!

Keeping hair a little shorter is a good idea if it has changed to a fine and thin texture. With less weight, using volumizing products works very well for fullness. If you still have great volume and body, keep it trimmed and update your hair care products.

Your skin tends to lose color and dark hair colors can make you look hard. On the other hand, a too light shade will leave you looking washed out. Again, your stylist can mix a color combination to enhance your skin tone.

As hair greys, it can become very coarse and wiry. It can also become dry and dull due to a decrease in oil production. Regular cuts, coloring, conditioning, and oil treatments will definitely help.

If you choose to let your hair go grey, a blue-based shampoo will keep the yellow cast at bay.

Paul Mitchell Shampoo Three is a clarifying shampoo which is used to remove residual minerals left in the hair from hard water and fatty acids left behind by medications, which in turn can be a cause for the yellowing color in grey hair.

Dark pigmentation (age spots) can be covered up with concealers. Use sunscreen to help keep them from getting worse, and a dermatologist can be of help to remove or fade these marks. Use creamy-based lipsticks instead of matte and long-wearing ones as they can be too dry.

Sixties and up. Now you're there! The ultimate trip through life has brought you to the golden years. Life should be simpler now and it's time to enjoy all the pleasures of not punching the clock. Health issues are sometimes a problem, but following your doctor's advice — combined with a simple but dedicated beauty and exercise program — can keep you on top of your looks.

At first glance, messy, flyaway locks are very unattractive on a mature man or woman, so meticulous grooming is vital. White hair can take on a yellow cast. Causes can be many things, including chlorine, sun, salt, cigarette smoke, perms, trace elements in water, and certain medications.

As I suggested above, blue-based shampoos and rinses and using Shampoo Three by Paul Mitchell twice a week can help counteract this problem. Hair may be thinning, so care should be taken to avoid sun exposure to the scalp by using hats and scarves.

Continue with sunscreen as your skin is thinner now, and to avoid further sun spots and skin damage, covering up with light clothing is suggested. If foundation is still desirable, use a shade close to your own skin tone and with a moisturizer so it will be absorbed into the skin and not clog up in lines and creases.

Soft tones of blush and lip colour are important for a healthy look, as there is absence of color in your skin and hair. Eyelashes are probably not thick and long any more, so a light coat of brown mascara combed gently through your lashes is all you'll need for a finished look.

One important thought — less can be more!

A thought for a smile: hugging a child or rocking a baby.

Sherri Blews Part Of Big E's 4-H Show

Sherri Blews, 15, of Aspen Hill Farm in Feeding Hills will participate in one of Eastern States Exposition's prestigious 4-H shows held during The Big E in West Springfield. She has entered an Arabian horse in the 1999 New England 4-H Horse Show, which will take place Sept. 24th-26th.

The 78th edition of The Big E will be held Sept. 17th-Oct. 3rd. During its 17-day run, 500 youngsters from New England will exhibit more than 1,000 animals in 4-H and youth livestock programs, competing for ribbons, awards, and cash prizes. As one of the largest agricultural shows in the East, The Big E's open livestock shows draw an additional 5,000 entries from the U.S. and Canada. The fair's 4-H/FFA Day is Saturday, Sept.

18th. Massachusetts Day is Thursday, Sept. 23rd.

The majesty and power of heavy horse teams will reign Sept. 30th-Oct. 3rd at The Big E Draft Horse Show, featuring the North American Six-Horse Hitch Classic Series 1999 Championship Finals. Also in the Coliseum and sponsored by Budweiser is the fabled Eastern States Exposition Horse Show (Sept. 16th-19th). Horse Pulling (Sept. 27th) and Oxen Pulling (Sept. 28th-29th) will conclude with the Canadian-USA Ox Haul Challenge.

The Two Hemispheres Wagon, pulled by the immense 16-horse Belgian Hitch, sponsored by Discover Platinum Card, will appear daily in The Big E Grande Parade, sponsored by Stop & Shop.

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ABAGALE MELISSA VIENS

Ron And Donna Viens Welcome Their Third Child, Abagale Melissa

Ron and Donna Viens of Harvey Johnson Drive are proud to announce the birth of their third child, Abagale Melissa Viens.

Abagale joined her sister, Ashlee (8), and brother, Joseph (4), on July 6th at 9:43 p.m. She weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and was 20½ inches long.

Abbey's grandparents are Ron and Susan Viens of Agawam and Ben and Denise Contrino of East Longmeadow.

Among the "welcoming committee" are great-grandparents Fran and Marie Viens and Lou and Gloria Lodigiani, Godparents Carrie Milliken and Tony Contrino, many aunts, uncles, cousins, and close family friends, including "Gramma Dot" Wright of Agawam.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, September 20th: Broccoli and cheese quiche, potato puffs, tomato and cucumber salad, whole wheat bread, bananas.

Tuesday, September 21st: Tomato and zucchini soup, turkey salad, macaroni salad, butterscotch pudding.

Wednesday, September 22nd: Baked chicken breast, baked potato, carrot coins, oatmeal bread, brownie.

Thursday, September 23rd: Beef stew, tossed salad, biscuit, apricots.

Friday, September 24th: Baked macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, corn muffins, pears and peaches.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Applications Available For Agawam Lioness Club's Craft Fair

The Agawam Lioness Club will hold an Annual Holiday Craft Fair at St. Thomas School, West Springfield (formerly held by the St. Thomas Catholic Women's Club), on Saturday, November 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Applications are now available for area crafters by contacting Ann at 789-0015.

Proceeds from this Craft Fair will support the many projects of the Agawam Lioness Club.

Best local news with us

Sacred Heart Parish Still Taking Sign-Ups For Boy Scout Troop

Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills will still sign-up any boy or parent at anytime. You may have missed the Tuesday, September 14th sign-up, but all you have to do is give us a call and we will give you more information.

We have done many things over the years and have had many good times. The Scouts have earned many badges.

Some of the things we have done are: visited the Army National Guards for a tour of their planes, visited Bradley International Airport, Barnes Airport, Westover Field, Hood Ice Cream, Soda & Pet City, Milton Bradley, radio stations, TV stations, Old Newgate Prison, library, police stations (in and out of town), fire departments, nursing homes, science museum, Freedom Trail, Boston Science Museum, Fenway Park, Plymouth Rock, and Bronx Zoo.

Other things done by the Troop include hayrides, sledding, roller-skating, fishing, baseball games, hockey games, bowling, biking, and hikes, walkathons, and camping, both as separate Dens and with the Boy Scouts. They have also taken part in the Pinewood Derby, Yukon Derby, Tiger Tracks, Tiger Quest, and Raingutter Regatta. They have gone to the Residence Camp and Webelo's Woods.

Some Dens served meals for people at the Open Pantry, Scouting for Food. Some of the above were done as Dens, Packs, and with the District Council.

They sent letters and packages to the troops in Desert Storm.

The Troop also marches in Memorial Day parades, attends Scout Sunday Masses, and holds Blue & Gold Banquets each year.

We, as leaders, have enjoyed everything and have seen many boys grow up through the years and go on to become Eagle Scouts while in Boy Scouts. It makes us feel good to have been part of their lives during this time. This is what Scouting is all about; caring and sharing. For more information, call 786-2309.

The Troop is selling popcorn at this time and it is a Council event. You can come to the Sacred Heart Parish Center, Springfield Street, Feeding Hills to sign-up on Wednesday evening, and to order the popcorn.

* * *

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.



DANIEL LARRABEE, JR. & CHRISTINE NOWACKI

Christine J. Nowacki Engaged To Wed Daniel J. Larrabee, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Nowacki of Feeding Hills are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Christine J. Nowacki, to Daniel J. Larrabee, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Larrabee of Westfield.

Ms. Nowacki is a graduate of Cathedral High School, Springfield, and Westfield State College. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and is a fifth-grade teacher at The Grammar School in Somersville, Connecticut. She is also pursuing her master's in education degree through the University of Massachusetts.

Mr. Larrabee, Jr. is a graduate of Westfield Vocational High School, Westfield. He is an interior and exterior constructor for Dickson Interiors, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

A June 17, 2000 wedding is planned.

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Alice Davis Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

Alice Davis, mother of former Agawam music director Darcy B. Davis, recently celebrated her 100th birthday at the Riverdale Gardens Nursing Home in West Springfield.

A small group of family members and friends had a party for her, and all enjoyed the day together.

Mrs. Davis was a long-time resident of the Colonial Haven Senior Citizen Apartments, and has been at Riverdale for the past six years and doing well at that location.

As a piano student during the World War I era, a large collection of her music is being used by the Memory Lane Chorus for its November concert.



"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALICE!!!": Alice Davis, mother of former Agawam music director Darcy B. Davis, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, which she recently celebrated with some family members and friends.



Trip To Mohegan Sun

The Agawam Senior Games Athletes will sponsor a trip to Mohegan Sun on Monday, September 20th.

The price will be \$16 and will include gratuities. Mohegan Sun will offer a \$10 meal ticket and a \$10 free play on the big wheel.

We are looking forward to a full bus and a day of fun with our friends. To obtain a ticket, please call Edie Chiba at 786-5539 or Vi Presz at 786-3164, or obtain a ticket at the Senior Center.

We will leave the Senior Center at 8:00 a.m., arriving at Mohegan Sun at approximately 9:30 a.m. We will leave Mohegan Sun at 4:00 p.m. sharp, arriving home at approximately 5:30 p.m.

All tickets must be paid for a week in advance, or the organization reserves the right to resell the ticket.

Tag Sale Slated For Sept. 18th At Quail Run Estates

A tag sale has been scheduled for Saturday, September 18th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Quail Run Estates, 50 Cardinal Drive (off Cooper Street), Agawam.

This event will be held rain or shine, and the public is cordially invited to attend.

Cub Scout Pack 78 Schedules Sign-Ups For Wednesday Evening, September 22nd

Cub Scout Pack 78 of Feeding Hills Congregational Church (next to Dunkin' Donuts) will be holding its sign-up night on Wednesday, September 22nd from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to stop by and see what Pack 78 is all about. We will have many displays on hand to give you an idea as to all of the activities we are involved in.

Throughout the year, the Pack is involved in many different activities, some of which include a Halloween Party, a visit from Santa, Pinewood Derby, Bowl-A-Thon, Blue & Gold Banquet, Civil


War demonstration, science fair, camp-out, bake-off, Falcons hockey games, and Cub Day Camp.

We also hold a food drive for the Open Pantry (we collected 50 boxes of food last year!) and a penny collection to adopt an animal from the Forest Park Zoo. This year, we adopted two, the bobcat and the eagle, which represents the Scouting trail.

If you would like to learn more about Scouting and Pack 78, stop by on Wednesday, Sept. 22nd. For questions or information, call Donna at 789-0232.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 48 hours' notice

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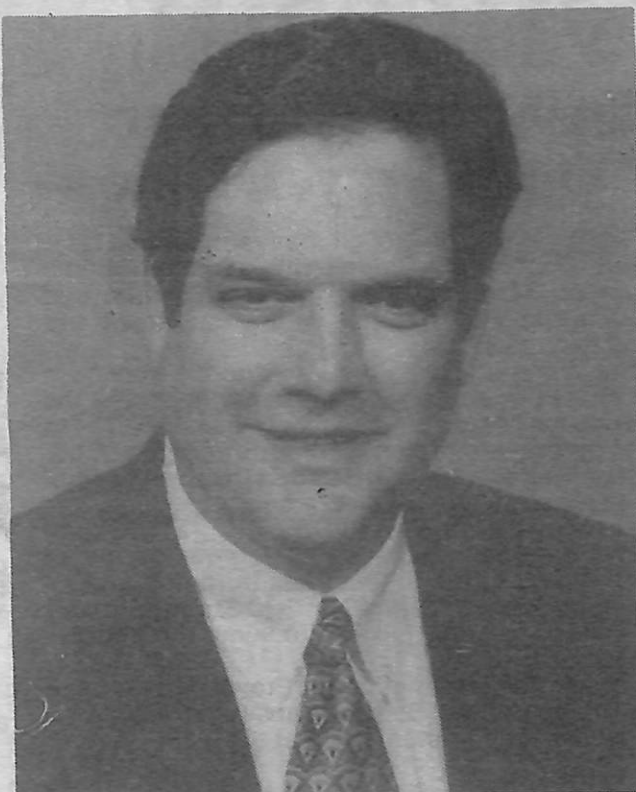
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Church News

Father Ron Sadlowski Pleased With Sacred Heart Parish

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Father Ronald Sadlowski, the new pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, wanted to be a priest as an altar boy (now called altar server) for as long as he can remember. He was an altar server from the age of eight or nine to the time of being ordained at the age of 26. He grew up in that town, attending Northampton Public Schools and graduating in 1964.

"I had the inner sense very young that I wanted to be wearing the clothing that a priest wears," he remembers.

"I worked around the church, assisting at various tasks, and I was ordained in my home parish, Saint John Cantius. After high school, I went to St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan, a minor seminary, in preparation for priesthood from 1964 through 1968, earning a bachelor of arts in philosophy. I wanted to continue the Polish traditions while following other parts of the curriculum.

"I was struck with the men I met at St. Mary's. These were 'regular guys.' I guess I had had an image of quiet, prayerful, obedient men and although they followed rules and so forth, they were very human, ordinary people called from all over by God. It woke me up to the fact that in God's work, many different kinds of gifts are needed."

In 1968, Father Sadlowski transferred to Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and earned his bachelor of sacred theology and a master of arts in moral theology in 1972. He was ordained as a priest on May 27, 1972. After a few weeks, he began his first assignment, on June 14th, at Immaculate Conception in the Indian Orchard section of Springfield.

Father Sadlowski spent close to eight years there and became actively involved. He faced his greatest challenge so far at this parish.

This challenge resulted from an expectation from the people, who told him it was "their custom not to have any preaching in the summer." This was his first test to his commitment and he told the parishioners, "There is going to be preaching, but with mindfulness of the weather."

For an interim period from September 1979 to May 1980, Father Sadlowski had a temporary position at Our Lady of Hope Church in Springfield, until a position opened up with a Polish parish. In 1980, he began his ministry at All Saints Church in Housatonic Village, part of Great Barrington, and remained there until 1986.

He applied at Sacred Heart Parish in Easthampton, beginning there May 15, 1986 and remaining until July 15, 1999. His first months at Sacred Heart in Feeding Hills have allowed him time to become acclimated to new surroundings and parishioners and he is happy with what he sees. The staff at Sacred Heart has remained the same and Father Sadlowski feels that there is cooperation and good will among them and likes working with everyone.

"...Contributing, Sharing, Participating"

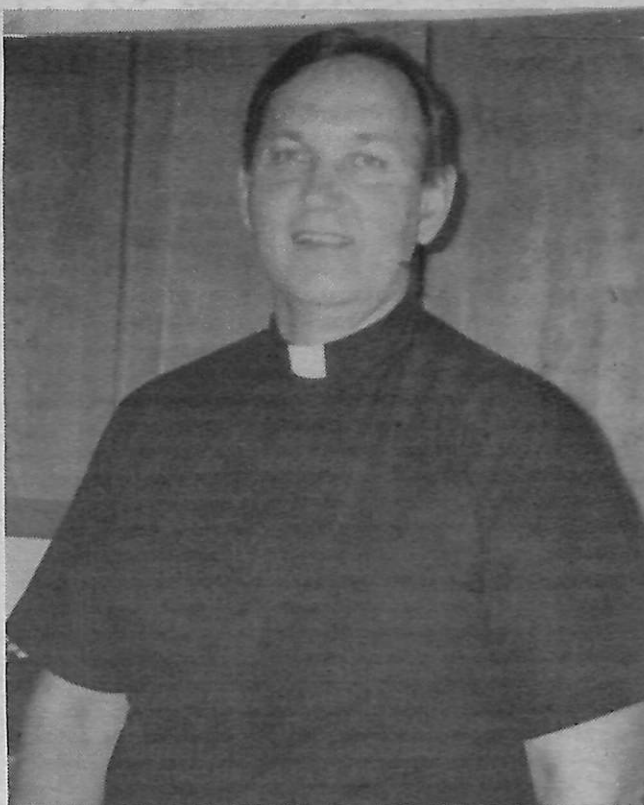
Father Sadlowski wishes to work with the Parish Council in many ways. He hopes "to give as many people as possible - and this includes children - the sense of what it means to be part of a parish, a family, a community. I want to convey the feeling of being part of something, contributing, sharing, and participating. My goal will be to try to encourage each person to offer their own particular gift, to share and use that gift."

Father Sadlowski believes his primary purpose is to invite people to participate and to find and use their gifts. He will meet with the Parish Council and wants to find out from youths at elementary and high school levels what their needs and desires might be. "How can we as a Parish Committee and maybe in a broader context, address these needs, either with the town's help or with other parishes?"

"We have facilities we could use. There is a large center where one could envision perhaps dances or other youth activities. I will present my thoughts to the Parish Council and get their feedback. I can also imagine the creation of representative groups, with one from the elementary level and one from high school. Perhaps there could be a representative from each group to sit on the Parish Council."

His long-range goal is to work with the town and the other parishes to provide things to do. "We are always looking for volunteers to help in creating and helping with these activities."

Check our classified ads...



FATHER RON SADLOWSKI, the new pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills. Advertiser

News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Valley Community Church To Offer Open Prayer Time

Pastor Gene de Jongh has announced that Valley Community Church will open its church doors on Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and evenings at 6:30 p.m. for a time of prayer and reflective meditation.

The community, as well as church members, are invited to come and participate in praise and celebration of God's great gifts to us, as well as to offer up prayers of concern for difficulties in our private lives as well as those that involve the community, nation, or world at large.

Valley Community Church is a non-denominational church that welcomes people of all Christian faiths to join them in their beautiful sanctuary at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills (high on the hill overlooking the Pioneer Valley).

For further information on Prayer Thursday or about our regular Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m., please call the church office at (413) 786-2445.

*"Church News" is a regular feature of
The Agawam Advertiser News...*

Calendar From Ag. Congregational

On Sunday, September 19th, at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, the Rev. Eric Bascom will lead worship at 10:30 a.m. around the Gospel theme of "The Laborers in the Vineyard." The text is Matthew 20:1-16, and the sermon (based on Jesus' parable) will be "Pay-Off at Five O'Clock."

The Pastoral Search Committee will ask the congregation to fill out a questionnaire to assist the committee in identifying and publicizing the prioritized needs of the church, in the beginning search for the next settled pastor.

This is also Youth Sunday and Teacher Affirmation Sunday. The Sr. High Youth of the church will be leading and participating in the Worship Service.

Church School (for grades seven through 12) and Confirmation Classes meet at 9:00 a.m.; all other ages meet at 10:30 a.m. during the service.

For the fall trimester, the teachers and teen helpers for the Church School are:

Crib Room - Emily Greaney, Katie Tapply, Katlyn LaValley, Joanna & Jannell Masotti, and Kevin Pender; Pre-School and Kindergarten - Diane Kibbe, Sharon McLaughlin, Ellie King, Patrick Walsh, and Robert Mesick; First and Second Grade - Jeanne Lewis, Laura Paul, Michele Cormier, Sue Tapply, Alice McKeever, Ali Simmons, and Shannon McDyer; Third Grade - Lucy Young, Danya Decoteau, Neal Ellsworth, and Alex Ellsworth; Fourth and Fifth Grade - Steve Lemire, Shirley Stelma, and Jeff Woodard; Sixth Grade - David Bertagnolli, Shawn Dupee, and Tom Mesick; Seventh and Eighth Grade - Debbie Most and Amber Most; Ninth Grade (Confirmation Class) - Rev. Eric W. Bascom and Cindy Arnold; 10th through 12th Grade - Dan Pender.

Acting Church School Superintendent is Lindelee Davis. Asst. Superintendent is Debbie Most. Christian Education Director is Dan Pender.

Current teacher openings are posted on the north bulletin board.

The Sanctuary Choir continues to meet for rehearsals on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m.

New voices are always welcome. Anyone interested in joining the choir may attend.

The choir is under the direction of the Minister of Music, Ms. Ellen Cogen.

Playgroup at the church has begun under the direction of Ms. Sue Tapply. Want to join in on the fun and friendship? Join us on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Questions? Call the church office at 786-7111.

For more information concerning any of our events, please call the church office at 786-7111.

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Church News - continued...



Reflections...

submitted by

Rev. Peter Monahan
 Pastor of the New Life
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 (413) 789-1377 or
 toll free (877) 643-9801

The Trouble With Forgiveness...

This weekend marks one of the holiest periods of the year for the Jewish people. Yom Kippur is the Day of Atonement, during which faithful Jews repent of their sins, trusting in the promise of God to forgive them. The 16th chapter of the Book of Leviticus describes in great detail how the holiday was to be celebrated. Those of us who are not Jewish might be interested to know that the Day of Atonement is where the word, as well as the concept, of *scapegoat* originated.

Aaron is to offer the bull to make atonement for himself and his household. Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. He is to cast lots for the two goats, one for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat. The goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat. He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites — all their sins — and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert.

One of the central tenets of the Christian faith is that when Jesus Christ was crucified, He was offering Himself to God to make atonement ("at-one-ment") for our sins. Christians believe that God is willing to forgive any and all people who repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Jesus can make anybody "at one" with God. You, me, the neighbor down the street; nobody is excluded. "How about Adolph Hitler?" someone might ask. "Even Hitler, had he repented, would have been forgiven," comes the stock reply. It's a safe statement to make, because just about everybody would agree that Hitler did not repent, and that there's really no chance of seeing him in heaven.

We can be comfortable with the concept of God forgiving awfully wicked people, as long as we're somewhat sure He doesn't actually do that! But if one's crime is truly awful or disgusting, theoreticians aside, there's no room for forgiveness. For example, many people cannot fathom the idea of Jeffrey Dahmer, the notorious murderer and cannibalist, or David Berkowitz, a.k.a. "The Son of Sam," being forgiven by God for the atrocious things they did. However, both men made professions of faith, and these men's lives have demonstrated the kinds of powerful changes we usually see in people who embrace Jesus as their Savior and experience forgiveness.

Perhaps our problem is that we limit ourselves to seeing things only from our human vantage. We think that awful people deserve to suffer awfully for their crimes, and we're offended by the thought that maybe God would let somebody "off the hook" without them suffering enough beforehand. We're certainly not alone! Even some of God's prophets struggled with what we might call the trouble of forgiveness, which is basically that it seems that too often, the wrong people receive forgiveness!

Jonah the prophet regarded the residents of Nineveh as being truly awful. Apparently, God agreed with Jonah's assessment, because He had decided to obliterate them. However, before God wiped out the Ninevites, He gave them one last chance. God sent Jonah to preach repentance. At first, Jonah refused, and wound up in the belly of a great fish. Many people are familiar with that part of the story, but there's more.

After Jonah agreed to do God's will, he brought God's warnings to the people of Nineveh, who repented immediately. When God saw how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction He had threatened. But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry.

Jonah was furious with God because God had extended the blessing of atonement to the people of Nineveh. He accused God, "I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." Although Jonah meant it as an accusation, he was actually affirming that there is no one who is beyond the reach of God's loving kindness and forgiveness. No matter what they've done, nor how awful others may think we are, the One to whom we must ultimately give account loves us and invites us to be forgiven. Don't be troubled by God's forgiveness, embrace it and become "at one" with Him!

Weekly Calendar Of News And Notes From Feeding Hills Congregational Church

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Our Sunday morning service of worship begins at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "Marriage: What's God Got to Do with It?" The Old Testament reading will be Genesis 2:18-25.

Ushering will be Ben and Sharon Rozanski. Jeff Chapman and Nick Pelter will be our acolytes.

Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

On Saturday, September 25th, the Board of Deacons is calling us to "A Day Away," an opportunity for some spiritual exploration in the beautiful setting of Stanley Park from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We'll take some time to look at a number of spiritual renewal disciplines and seek ways to apply them to our own lives.

Through Scripture, through the sharing of personal experiences, and through prayer and contemplation, we'll find ways to deepen our relationships with each other and with our God.

Plan to bring your lunch. Sign up with a member of the Board of Deacons.

The deadline for submitting information to the October issue of *The Informer* is Thursday, September 16th.

There will be a breakfast meeting of the Agawam Parish Association held at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, September 18th, at 8:30 a.m. This is a community-based group made up of clergy and lay persons from various churches.

If you are interested in know more about this group, please attend the meeting or call Rev. Donaldson at 786-5061.

Members should be aware that scouts will be meeting at the church on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons and evenings. Boards and Committees should keep this in mind when planning meetings to be held at the church.

On the calendar:

Friday, September 17th: 7:00 p.m., Movie Night.
Saturday, September 18th: 8:30 a.m., Agawam Parish at Sacred Heart.

Sunday, September 19th: 10:00 a.m., Worship; 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., Church of Redemption.
Monday, September 20th: 7:00 p.m., Christian Ed.

Tuesday, September 21st: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Deacons.

Wednesday, September 22nd: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Cub Scout sign-ups; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, September 23rd: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

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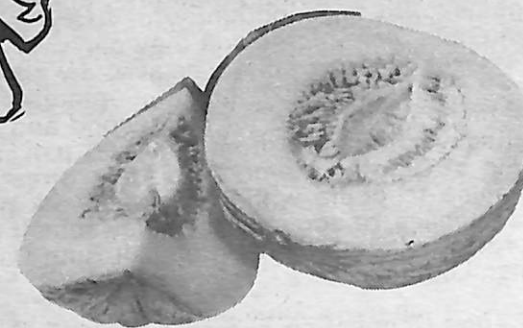
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Church News - continued...

St. John's Parish News And Notes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION

Classes will start on September 18th for grades one through four; September 20th for grades eight through 10; and September 21st for grades five through seven.

Saturday classes are held from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.; Monday classes, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.; and Tuesday classes, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

HELP! TEACHERS STILL NEEDED

As we get ready to start a new year of religious education, we once more are looking for help with our teaching program. With over 500 students, we try to break down the class size to 10 to 15 students.

If you cannot do it on a regular basis, maybe on a ready/reserve substitute roster. Please call Father Howard, Father Bill, or Annette Reynolds (our new CCD Coordinator) at 786-8105.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be held here at St. John's on Monday night, October 18th, at 7:00 p.m.

The next 1999 Confirmation class will be held on September 27th.

The class of 2000 will meet for the first time on October 3rd with their parents for a introduction meeting.

ST. JOHN'S OVER-60 CLUB

The Club's first trip is Thursday, October 7th, traveling to Plymouth for the Cranberry Harvest. Bus will leave St. John's at 8:00 a.m. and return at 7:30 p.m. Grand buffet lunch at John Carver Inn.

Cost: \$47. For reservations, call Lil at 789-9586 or Barbara at 569-9830.

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES CLUB

The Club meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Father Joyce Room of the Parish Center (usually).

Contact John, 786-2273, or JoAnne, 789-0774.

CUB SCOUT SIGN-UPS

St. John's Cub Scout Pack 77 will have a sign-up night on Thursday, September 16th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Sign-ups are for boys in grades one through five.

Contact Marcia, 786-3666, or Cathy, 786-5103.

PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of St. John's Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, September 28th, at 7:00 p.m.

Two New Groups To Meet At First Baptist Church

As the fall season begins, two new groups are forming at First Baptist Church. Both will meet in homes.

The first group, a play group for preschool children and their mothers, will meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Sandra Taft-Fairlie at 61 Norris Street, Feeding Hills. There will be Bible stories, music and crafts, together with an opportunity for fellowship between both the children and their parents.

Also starting this fall will be a handiwork group. The first meeting will be on September 23rd. Meetings are planned for the second and fourth Thursday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the home of Dorothy Major, 1108 Main Street. Feel welcome to come with your handiwork project and supplies, or come for the fellowship. If this is a group you are interested in, call Ruth Davis or Helen Lockhart.

Caring Connection contacts for the month of September are Marilyn and Harold Kane (786-2757). The Caring Connection will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Choir members are reminded that rehearsals this season will begin at 7:00 p.m. instead of the previous meeting time of 7:30 p.m.

Seminar Held Each Tuesday At Faith Bible Church

Faith Bible Church, located at 370 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, is now hosting a 52-week series seminar entitled "The End Times."

Presented by Pastor James R. Jasmin, this series of Tuesday evening teachings will present current prophetic truths based on Scripture.

Discussions will include eschatology, significant current events that point to us on a Biblical timeline, and what the new millennium is going to bring according to Scripture.

Awana Clubs Program Begins For 1999-2000 At Grace Baptist Church In Feeding Hills

Grace Baptist Church, located at 475 Pine St., Feeding Hills, is pleased to announce the beginning of its 1999-2000 Awana Clubs program.

The program will be run Friday evenings from 6:45-8:30 p.m., beginning September 17th.

Awana Clubs, a youth program with local charters worldwide, is tailored to all children from kindergarten through grade 12. The program consists of:

Handbook Time, where children are encouraged to memorize key Bible verses; Council Time, where Bible teaching is delivered in age appropriate levels; Game Time, where children learn games that are specific to the Awana Club's game circle, which encourage good sportsmanship and teamwork.

This program is offered to all children k-12 and transportation is available to and from the church as needed. Also available and running concurrent with the Awana Club's program is an adult Bible study which deals with key issues of the day. All adults are invited to attend.

For more information or to register, call the church at 821-0112.

Our classified ads cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.



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Baths That Sell...

If you're thinking of selling your home, keep in mind that bathrooms play a major role in the sale. Prospective buyers want a bath that is in good repair, has ample storage, and is sparkling clean.

A brighter, lighter bath painted and decorated in a neutral color such as white, off-white, beige, or light gray will appeal to the most buyers. And, if you stick with a one-color scheme, buyers will find it easier to imagine how their towels and accessories will look.

Painting the walls and ceiling is easy and inexpensive — use a gloss or semi-gloss finish because it is more soil-, steam-, and water-resistant and can better withstand repeated scrubbing.

Proper lighting can also brighten an otherwise dim bathroom. Use the highest-wattage light bulbs your fixtures will allow.

Easy-to-do fixes that may have a major impact on the sale of your home include:

- Scrubbing the sink, tub, shower, and toilet; polishing chrome fixtures; removing mildew and stains from tiles; cleaning lime deposits; unclogging drains; and cleaning mirrors and window treatments.

- Repairing leaky faucets and running toilets, replacing broken toilet seats, and tightening hardware and towel racks.

- Organizing linen closets, countertops, and drawers.

- Hanging a new shower curtain, putting out decorative bars of soap, and hanging your nicest towels.

For more home improvement tips, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.



COMMON SENSE

with

Raymond Rose

THE PIONEER GROUP

How To Manage Yourself To Manage Time

We do not manage time. Time just keeps on passing by whether we are there or not. Each of us has the job of managing ourselves during our pass through time. When we begin to talk about managing ourselves, we must talk about how we think to ourselves. What we think profoundly influences what we feel and what we do. Thinking has everything to do with how you decide to manage yourself and your time.

"Decide" is the key word. There are literally hundreds of times each day when you decide how you are going to spend your time. For the most part, however, these decisions flash by in an instant and you are not ever aware you made the decision. That is because most of your thoughts are automatic. The thoughts have been programmed through days, weeks, and years of repetitions. So when you want to change how you are going to manage yourself, you will need to take a look at these automatic thoughts.

Now don't for a moment think you are going to change ALL your automatic thoughts. It is really not possible. Imagine what would happen if you tried to rewrite every line of programming in your computer at the same time. The computer would crash and so would you. There is no need to rewrite all your automatic thoughts because most

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of them serve you very well. They let you tie your shoes, drive a car, and do hundreds of other useful things "automatically." There are usually just a few you need to change. The trick is finding and replacing them.

The easiest way to find them is to find the situations that trigger the thoughts. Look back over your daily schedule and be honest with yourself about how you spent your time. Find the periods of time that were wasted and take a hard look at the beginning of that time period. What were you thinking in the moments before you started to waste the time? For example, thoughts like, "I can't get anything done in 15 minutes. I will goof off instead." Next, come up with thoughts you could think instead. Something like, "I can get at least one good paragraph of an article written in 15 minutes."

The next step is to actually catch yourself in the moment and replace the time-wasting thought with the more productive thought. If you are like most people, the process of learning to catch yourself using time-wasting thoughts and replacing them with productive ones will be an effort. But a little time and effort applied to it every day will pay huge dividends in the future.

Need Real Estate Information Quickly?

Do you want to know what mortgage programs are best for you? Do you want to know what your home is worth? Do you have family and friends who may be interested in buying/selling a home? Do you need assistance in relocating? Would you like information on the prices of homes that have sold in your neighborhood? Simply e-mail your request or call me today!

Raymond Rose is the Principal of THE PIONEER GROUP, a professional real estate firm that represents home buyers only. Comments/questions can be directed to his office (731-6800) or his e-mail (RayRose111@aol.com). Also, contact him via e-mail to receive his FREE online newsletter, THE PIONEER REPORT - Online.

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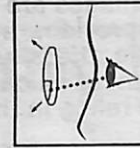
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Spotlight On Business - continued...**Legal Memo**

by

Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454

**INSURANCE****Unfair Claim Settlement Practices**

Where a defendant insurance company offered only \$21,000.00 to a plaintiff who had been injured when her car was struck by a vehicle driven by one of the defendant's policyholders, the defendant must be held liable for unfair claim settlement practices in violation of Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 176D. A judge awarded the plaintiff \$53,068.00, which sum is to be doubled based on a determination that the insurance company's violation of said General Laws, c. 176D was a willful and knowing one.

Finding of Violation

By the time the trial began, the defendant knew that liability could not reasonably be contested, that the plaintiff's special damages were in excess of \$10,000.00, that the plaintiff's physician was going to testify as to a significant, ongoing injury that was causally related to the accident, that there was a consortium claim, that approximately 27-percent interest would be added to any jury verdict, that the conciliator had placed a value of \$50,000.00 on the case, the two judges had suggested during the course of settlement conferences that the defendant's offer of \$21,000.00 was low, that the adjuster it had assigned to the case had expressed her opinion more than 18 months earlier that the full value of the case, without interest or discount for liability, was \$35,000.00 to \$36,000.00, that nothing in the interim had been discovered to lessen that value, that plaintiff's counsel, at a pretrial conference had indicated a willingness to accept \$50,000.00 in settlement and, thereafter, defendant's own attorney had given the case a settlement value of \$40,000.00 and had stated his belief that it could settle for between \$40,000.00 and \$50,000.00.

Under those circumstances, to allow the case to proceed to trial with an offer of \$21,000.00 on the table was not a reasonable effort to effectuate a settlement and no reasonable insurer would have done so. None of the cited factors, viewed in isolation, produces that conclusion. Together, however, they show a clear statutory violation.

Willfulness

A judge ruled that not only did the defendant insurance company's conduct violate the statutes, but it did so knowingly and willfully as those terms are used in Massachusetts General Laws, c. 93A, section 9(3). No reasoning person acting in 1 faith could have fairly concluded that \$21,000.00 was an appropriate settlement value for this case just before trial began. In fact, it was found that the defendant insurance company knew it was not.

Damages

The judge's finding and conclusion that the defendant insurance company's violation of the statute was knowing and willful leads to a further conclusion that double damages are appropriate. A statutory scheme that provides strong incentives for making reasonable offers and demands cannot guarantee settlement of all cases that can and should be settled. The ruling in this very case demonstrates that.

By providing a significant stimulus for production of reasonable offers, however, such a scheme goes a long way toward insuring that the bargaining process, at some stage, contains the ingredients on which a fair and reasonable settlement can be reached and without which such settlements are impossible. Society therefore has an interest in seeing to it that reasonable offers are made even in those circumstances when it cannot be said that such offers would in fact have produced an accord.

Applying Massachusetts General Laws, c. 176D and c. 93A in the manner in which they have been applied here produces the following result: As long as the plaintiff takes an unreasonable position, the defending insurer is permitted broad latitude to maneuver with impunity in an effort to produce a reasonable demand.

A plaintiff who takes an unreasonable position thus expends unnecessary and uncompensated time and effort to achieve results that a reasonable demand might have produced with far greater dispatch. When the plaintiff enters the zone of reason, however, the insurer has an obligation to make an offer that fairly and reasonably reflects what the case is really worth. An insurer that fails to make a reasonable offer under those circumstances risks incurring substantial penalties.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts.

**Timely Tips On How To Manage Your Finances**

by Sue & Charlie Alvanos
Personal Financial Advisors
American Express
534-3883

More Women Taking Action On Retirement Planning...

Your grandmother most likely planned for retirement knowing that Social Security and perhaps a company pension would provide most of the income she needed. If you're planning for retirement today, you face a fuzzier financial future. With the uncertainty of Social Security, fewer companies offering traditional pension plans, and people living longer, more women have to play an active role in creating their own financially secure retirements.

According to the 1998 Women's Retirement Confidence Survey (WRCS) released by the Employee Benefit Research Institute in November 1998, 59 percent of women have saved for retirement. Survey information from past years shows that this percentage continues to grow.

The survey cited above also indicates that more than 50 percent of women expect that Social Security and employer-funded plans will be their most important source of retirement income. Another 30 percent of women anticipate that the money they save through their plan at work (i.e., 401(k) plan) and their personal savings will be the keys to their financial independence in retirement.

So how can you join the growing number of women taking action on their retirement plans? To ensure that you are prepared, determine where your retirement money will come from and how much you'll expect from each source.

Social Security. There's a lot of talk about whether Social Security will remain solvent in the years ahead, though no one knows for sure how future retirees will be affected. The government has already made some changes that will likely affect you.

For example, to accommodate today's longer life expectancies and to help ensure the long-term solvency of the system, the full retirement age (now age 65) will be increased in gradual steps un-

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til it reaches age 67. This change starts in the year 2003, and it affects people born in 1938 and later. This means that you will have to wait longer to collect your full Social Security benefits. The shift also will affect payment rates for people who start their benefits early.

To see what Social Security benefits you're entitled to under today's rules, call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 to request your Personal Earnings and Benefit Statement. You'll get a statement that shows your annual earnings to date and an estimate of your monthly benefit if you retire at ages 62, 65, and 70.

Employer pensions (defined benefit plans). Some employer pensions — not to be confused with 401(k) plans — give you the option of taking your distribution in a lump sum, while others provide monthly income based on years of service and pay levels. If you are entitled to a company pension, contact your benefits office to see what your payment options are and how much you would receive under each option. You may also want to discuss your pension choices with your financial advisor and accountant.

Another consideration about your pension is its safety. If your employer or pension plan goes under, the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corp. (PBGC) will likely pay at least part of your pension benefit. To find out now what shape your plan is in, request a Form 5500 from your benefits office. The document, which companies must file annually with the U.S. Department of Labor, includes an independent actuary's report on your pension plan.

Personal investments. One effective way to make sure your retirement income supports the lifestyle you want is to take full advantage of tax-deferred accounts such as IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, SEP-IRAs, or Keoghs.

Not only do these plans allow you to benefit from tax-deferred growth, some employer-sponsored plans like 401(k)s also provide a matching feature — giving you immediate return on your savings. When allocating the dollars among investments within your plan, consider such factors as your time horizon, your risk tolerance, and your overall investment goals. Also, remember that taxes are due upon withdrawal and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10-percent IRS penalty.

Now's the time to join the growing number of women taking responsibility for their own financial future. With a plan and the discipline to stick to it over time, you'll increase your chances of having the income you want for the retirement of your dreams.

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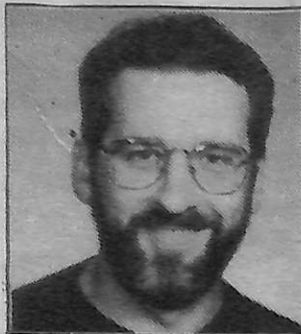
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Facing Into And Away From Transitions

Last week, I wrote about an experience of how life and death exist side by side. I've received more feedback from this article than all my previous columns combined. I guess I'm not alone! One person asked, "Whose story was it, anyway?" I informed her that the **Fluid Child, Julia**, is my family's story, not someone else's.

Another person was impressed with our ability to care for 'self' amidst the tragedy of our two week-old daughter's death. She telephoned me, asking, "How did you manage to do so many progressive rituals at such a difficult transition time?"

I told her that the short answer, in hindsight, was that we celebrated her life and mourned her death as a natural extension of how we lived our lives. I believe how one lives their life greatly informs how they experience and manage significant life transitions.

Whether your transition be the death or serious illness of a loved one or pet, a separation/divorce or marriage, birth or graduation of a (grand)child, loss of employment or creation of a new product or service; these and many other transitions will challenge how you and your loved ones live life.

The loss of a child or any other significant transition can catapult you *into and out of a way of living*. You may not have much choice at that time, but ultimately are challenged by how you *face into and out of* today, the past and the future.

Another person e-mailed me with the wonder of how we chose an open casket for a baby? He shared the recent experience of his mother's death and how difficult it was to have an open casket. Yes! For us, too, it was very difficult and extremely valuable.

Yet, I know that our experience is ours and his and your experience is yours. Each experience is individual and unique as are each of us. My encouragement for you is to look beyond a right or wrong way to celebrate life and/or mourn death or any other significant transition. I recommend doing the best you can under difficult circumstances by taking time for personal reflection, talk with others, and share what you have learned.

My wife, son, and I talked at length. How could we own, each in our own way, this experience? How could we create a ritual context for others to enter into our experience, while honoring their personal experiences? We invited activities and moments of silence we hoped would help anyone get close to whatever their emotion or memory this imperfect, bruised, and blotted, *wonderful-gift-child* offered.

Transition can be a vulnerable time where we can be swayed by many of the demands others, family and extended family included, place on us. What is your story? Do you know how you tend to *face into and away from* these challenging moments?

Let's talk some more about this ... please continue to write or call me with your **feedback, relationship questions, and topics and Let's Talk** about it.

Dan Pender, MA, MFT, is a Marriage & Family Therapist with a private practice in Agawam, MA. He is Clinical member of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy and can be reached by e-mail (AOL screen name: **dpmft449**) or P.O. Box 449, Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 789-4460.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...



Chiropractic Care

by

**Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic
Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820**

Diagnosing Sciatic Pain

Oftentimes people will come in complaining of low back, buttock, and leg pain and state that they are experiencing sciatica. The sciatic nerve is the longest of the body.

It exits from the low back, travels through the buttocks, and down the back of the legs. Occasionally, this nerve can get irritated and can produce burning, aching pain or numbness and tingling from the low back, buttocks, and legs down to the feet. When this happens, it is important to diagnose the cause of the sciatic pain accurately. To find out what is causing the nerve to be irritated is imperative prior to treatment.

The first item that may produce sciatic pain is a disc. A disc is a cushion between the vertebrae or bones in the spine. The inside of the disc is a gel-type substance; the outside is composed of thick, fibrous material. When a disc is herniated, the gel-like interior breaks through the outer layer and may put pressure on the nerve. This is diagnosed with certain orthopedic and neurologic tests that a chiropractor performs to assess the region. If the problem is disc-related, often an MRI or CT scan exam may be ordered to fully assess the extent of herniation.

The second cause of sciatic pain is nerve irritation due to bone growth or impingement. This is called stenosis. The opening of the hole where the nerve exits the vertebrae is decreased due to osteoarthritis or bone spurring. This is initially assessed by an x-ray.

The third main cause of sciatic pain is due to the joints of the spine and pelvis not functioning properly or being "locked up," causing the local muscles to spasm, which, in turn, irritates the nerve. This is assessed with a chiropractic exam to check the motion of the spine and pelvis.

There are other less likely causes of sciatic pain that do need to be ruled out, including vascular problems, tumors, and other internal conditions that may produce the pain. It is important to get the cause of sciatic pain diagnosed in order to correctly treat it. Chiropractors are very successful at treating sciatica. If you are experiencing this type of pain, contact our office today.

If you are interested in learning more about chiropractic, Dr. Nelson offers a complimentary health care class which answers many questions you may have. Our next scheduled class will be on **Wednesday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m.** at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Please call our office at 786-4820 to reserve a space. Dr. Nelson is available to answer questions on Monday and Wednesday from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the above number.



**Food
for
Thought**

**by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician**

Great Beginnings ... Eating For A Healthy Pregnancy

"Baby" your baby - with nourishment for a healthy pregnancy and beyond. A healthful diet provides nutrients essential for your baby's development and for changes in your own body. And looking ahead, healthful eating now helps prepare you for the strenuous physical demands of motherhood.

Baby-Building Nutrients

During pregnancy, you need all the nutrients and energy (calories) you can ... plus a little more. This isn't time to cut back! Chosen wisely, your food can supply enough baby-building nutrients, even those needing special attention:

Bone-building calcium from milk, yogurt, cheese, fish with edible bones and some leafy greens, such as kale, broccoli, and collard greens. Consume enough calcium-rich foods, so your bones won't become a calcium source for baby's bones.

Folate from citrus fruits, dark-green leafy vegetables, legumes, nuts, and whole grains. Note: Adequate amounts of this important vitamin, especially in the first trimester, may help prevent birth defects!

Body-building protein from meat, poultry, fish, many dairy foods, dry beans, eggs or healthy egg substitute, and nuts. From head to toes, protein makes up every cell of your baby's growing body!

Iron for your increased blood supply from meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, and whole-grain and enriched grain products. Note: Iron deficiency increases your risk for anemia.

Water, at least eight to 12 cups daily. Whether it's juice, milk, soup, or water, you need more fluids now for your increasing blood supply.

For you and your growing baby, you need about 300 extra calories a day. You can get these from just a few more food group servings. That includes at least one more Milk Group serving, for extra calcium, throughout pregnancy.

Next Week: "Coping with morning sickness, constipation, heartburn, and swelling."

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association. She can be reached at 850 Springfield St., Suite 4, Feeding Hills, MA 01030; (413) 786-2957. Accepting Tufts, Secure Horizons, and Harvard Pilgrim.

"For Your Health" is a regular feature of The AAN...

Individual, Couple & Family Therapy ... when facing into and out of a way of living.

Read more about this in today's **FOR YOUR HEALTH** column.

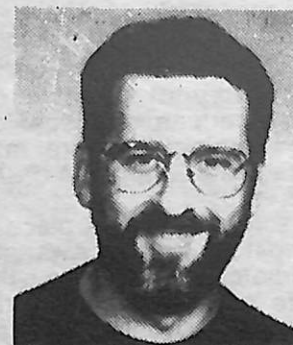
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For Your Health - continued...**Your Back And Your Health**

by **Dr. Joseph S. Schlaffer**
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

"How Long Will It Take Me To Get Better?"

"Doctor, how long will it take me to get better?" This is one of the most frequently asked questions that I'm asked.

All patients want to get well as quickly as possible. Often they want to know what can be done to speed the healing process. Since many problems are often the result of years of neglect or improper activities, the answer is not simple.

While there aren't any shortcuts to speed your body's natural healing process, here are some things you can do to give yourself the best chance of quick recovery:

- Learn proper sitting and lifting methods. Specific exercises may be suggested to help retrain the muscles that support your spine.

- Proper rest is an important aspect of the healing process, too. Get the appropriate amount of rest your body needs and avoid sleeping on your stomach.

- During the healing process, proper nutrition is more important than ever. Make sure you eat balanced meals, and if you're overweight, now would be a good time to slim down and reduce unnecessary stresses to your spine.

- Perhaps most important of all, keep your appointments and follow your chiropractic doctor's recommendation for optimum results.

Dr. Joseph Schlaffer and his wife, Dr. Katherine Schlaffer, have been helping sick people get well, naturally, for over 20 years. Call 789-1369 or 789-1073 for an appointment.

Support Groups, Courses, And Programs Offered By Noble Hospital In Westfield

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield. Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesday, September 22nd, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their spouses, caregivers, and other interested persons.

Participants are encouraged to suggest topics for future meetings. Call Barbara Boulanger, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., 568-2811, ext. 5809.

Diabetes: Tuesday, September 28th, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals who have diabetes and their support persons.

At this meeting, Jane Martone, D.D.S., M.D., will speak about "Dental Care and Diabetes."

COURSES/PROGRAMS/CLINICS

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: On Thursday, September 30th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Noble Hospital's Sports and Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

Prostate Screenings At Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital is offering free prostate cancer screenings Wednesday, September 22nd from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. The screenings will be held in the hospital's patient assessment unit, 271 Carew St.

Men ages 50-75 who have no symptoms of prostate cancer, and high risk men ages 35-75 will be screened. Men at high risk include those with a family history of prostate cancer or who are African-American or Hispanic. No one currently under a urologist's care may participate. The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test will be offered.

The screening takes place during the 10th annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Week. In 1999, an estimated 179,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and more than 37,000 will die from it. Early prostate cancer usually does not have any symptoms and is difficult to detect without testing. When detected early, there are many treatment options available.

To schedule a screening appointment, call Mercy Hospital, (413) 748-9044, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS) is a founding member of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest health care systems. Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to Florida.

Nancy Dell To Host "Anti-Aging" Program

Nancy Dell, a registered dietician and nutrition news reporter for Channel 22, will present a program entitled "Forever Young: Your Anti-Aging Diet," at Agawam Public Library on Tuesday, September 21st from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

As we age, our ears, eyes, skin, muscles, and bones change. Nancy, however, will share with the audience how the aging process can be slowed through diet. New research shows that certain foods have protective effects against cataracts, hearing loss, wrinkles, and more. Attend this exciting workshop to learn how to add years to your life, and life to your years.

Nancy Dell owns "Food for Thought Communications." As a registered dietician, she provides nutrition education through the media, corporate wellness programs, and private counseling. Through her private counseling, Nancy has helped patients come off all medications and control disease with simple diet changes.

Her nutrition news segment, called "Food for Thought," airs locally on 22 News. She has syndicated the segment to several other stations nationwide and received the "Excellence in Nutrition Education Award" from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for her television work.

The Agawam Public Library is featuring this distinguished speaker as part of its year-long focus on providing health information to the public. In addition to scheduling interesting speakers, the library has purchased over 300 new health items for the library's collection.

The library's effort to expand its health collection and to inform the public about the issues affecting their health is made possible with Federal funds administered through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The program is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending may register in person at the library, or call (413) 789-1550.



NANCY DELL

Cancer Support Group Meetings At Mercy Hospital In Spfld.

Persons with cancer, their families, and friends are invited to attend Mercy Hospital's Cancer Support Group. The free meetings are conducted Mondays at 7:00 p.m., in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 299 Carew St.

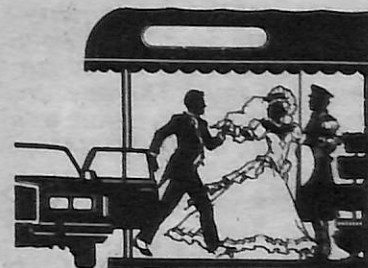
The group offers information on topics of interest to cancer patients, and provides an opportunity to share experiences in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings are facilitated by Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., of Mercy's Pastoral Care Department.

For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453.

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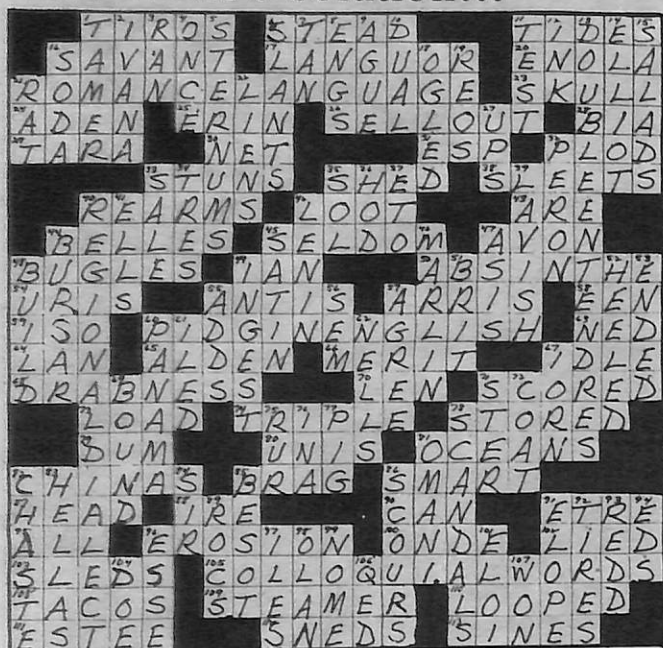
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- 1 Smallest amount
- 6 Old — (English greeting)
- 10 Retirees' org.
- 13 Bring in from overseas
- 15 Company asset
- 16 Dundee denial
- 17 Ends
- 19 Mine find
- 20 Bradley and Sharif
- 21 — the draw
- 23 Like July of '99
- 26 Groom like a bird
- 28 Departed
- 29 Actor Ed
- 31 Worst possible traffic
- 34 What fools these — be
- 37 Ship (Jap.)
- 38 Priest's garment
- 39 Drive off
- 42 Leo's pride
- 44 Get rid of
- 46 Timing device
- 50 Aware
- 51 Polynesian god
- 52 Elmo is one
- 55 Tennis unit
- 56 Endures
- 59 Trap
- 61 Nanki — (Yum-Yum's husband)
- 62 Quick
- 67 Actor Chaney
- 68 Metalwear
- 69 Tarzan
- 70 Curved letter
- 71 Pitcher
- 72 Breaks in two

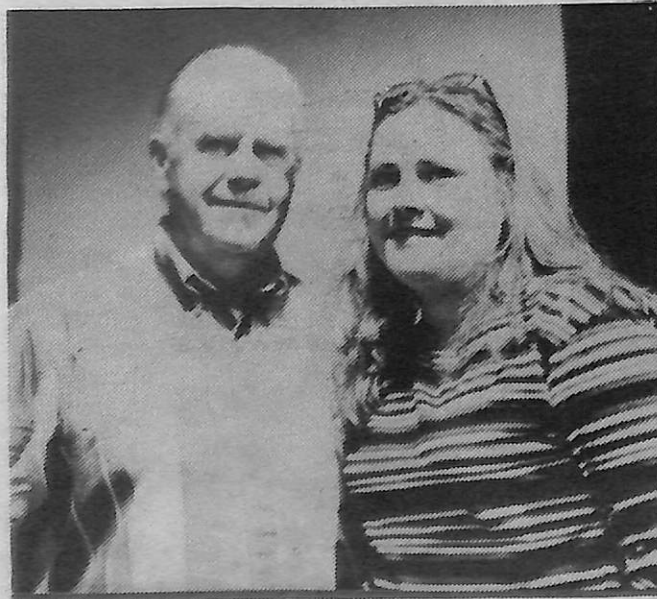
DOWN

- 1 Leo the — (Durocher)
- 2 Ostrich-like bird

3 Fitting

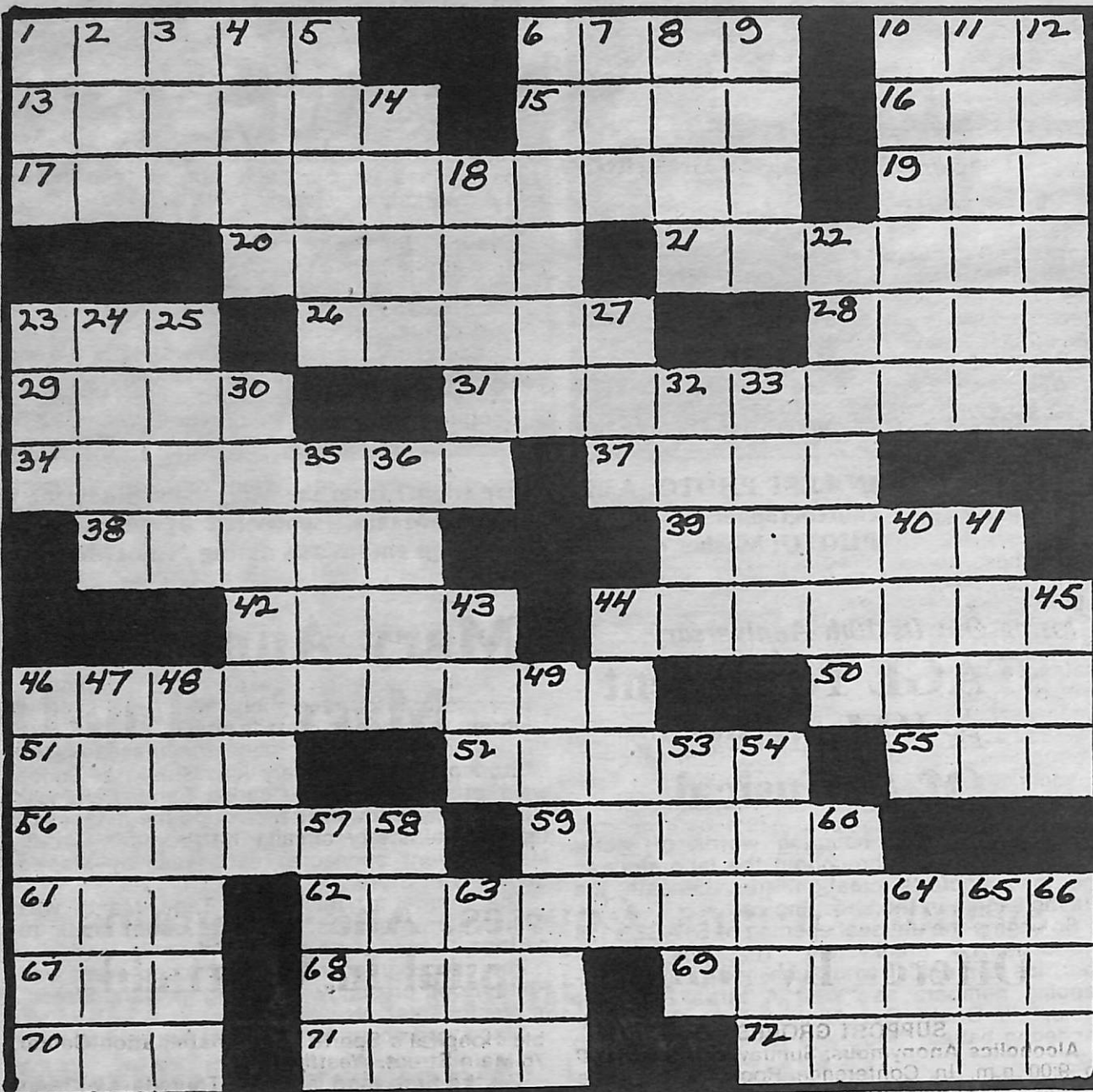
- 4 Response to "How are you?"
- 5 Hobo
- 6 Storage space
- 7 Skip and jump partner
- 8 Agents (abbr.)
- 9 Steno's home
- 10 — under (overworked)
- 11 Lamour's wrapper
- 12 Took care of
- 14 Ivan or Peter
- 18 Hair lock
- 22 Admit
- 23 — on rye (deli favorite)
- 24 Typee sequel
- 25 Alaska once (abbr.)
- 27 — de Plume
- 30 Impressed in a way
- 32 Brazilian river
- 33 God of war
- 35 There oughta be —
- 36 Capps' hyena
- 40 Long time periods
- 41 Medieval strings
- 43 U.F.O. pilots
- 44 Durable fabric
- 45 Small child
- 46 Rice to the Japanese diet
- 47 No-no's
- 48 Gibson garnishes
- 49 Golfer Billy
- 53 Zola novel
- 54 Snares
- 57 Family of Ferrara
- 58 Put away
- 60 Adam's garden
- 63 Bullring cheer
- 64 Heiress hogg
- 65 Atlas item
- 66 USNA grad

Father/Daughter Team



PHIL AND BETH BEELE during a recent rehearsal of the Encore Players' upcoming production of Tennessee Williams' most famous play, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," which will be performed at the Lower Theater, St. Luke's Church, 961 St. James Avenue, Springfield (near Serv-U). For dates, times, and ticket reservations, call (413) 735-1764.

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



Red Door Theatre Offers Fall Cabaret

The Hilltop Players Family Theatre will present "4-Ever Friends" on October 8th and 9th at 7:30 p.m., and on October 10th at 2:00 p.m. at The Red Door Theatre, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

"4-Ever Friends" is a retrospective journey of five women friends who reunite to reminisce about their interwoven lives and to renew their friendship. Told through dramatic and comedic scenes, multimedia presentation, and song and dance, the play is the brainchild of Marilene Allen of Agawam.

Red Door Theatre audiences will remember Marilene as Marion the librarian in "The Music Man," and as an actress in last year's Christmas show who delivered the hysterical monologue, "Fruit Cake." This show represents her debut as a playwright for The Red Door Theatre, which was voted runner-up as the "BEST PLACE TO SEE LIVE THEATRE" by *The Valley Advocate* Readers' Poll.

Playing the roles of the five women are Darcy Banks of Granville, Nancy Klueh of Feeding Hills, Jean Latif of West Springfield, Kathryn Leary of Westfield, and Virginia Ventulett of Agawam.

Performing as singers and dancers are Dana Allen and Sara Dorans of Agawam, Jaime Pearsons of Suffield, and Kati Lewantowicz of Southampton as the children; Morgan Allen and Gen Horn of Agawam, Nicole Messmer of Suffield, and Alex Kane of Granby, CT, as the teens; and Marilene Allen and Margie Secora as the adult women.

This show will be presented cabaret-style at candlelit tables. Audience members may bring their own refreshments or purchase them from the theatre snack bar.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for seniors and children 12 and under. For reservations, call (413) 789-2026.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads in each edition of the ADVERTISER NEWS...

"Side Show" To Open The Theater Project's Season

The Tony nominated musical *Side Show* will open the 1999-2000 season for the Theater Project, according to Producing Director Danny Eaton.

The story, with book and lyrics by Bill Russell and music by Harvey Krierger, tells the story of conjoined sisters Daisy and Violet Hilton, who became vaudeville stars during the Depression, following their early days in circus freak shows. *Side Show*, which Eaton will direct, will open on September 23rd and run through October 23rd at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield.

Appearing as the leads will be Amy Rist and Joni Cossaboom as Violet and Daisy Hilton. Ed Carey will portray Terry Connor, and Steven M. Sands, Jr. has been cast as Buddy Foster. Other cast members include Chris Paul as Jake, and Frank Aronson as The Boss. Music Director is Stefan Billups, Lisa Moskow is the choreographer, and Tiffany Motschenbacher has been named Stage Manager. As with all Theater Project productions, all performers are residents of the Pioneer Valley/northern Connecticut area.

Eaton is confident that the offbeat story will be well received by audiences. "*Side Show* is really in keeping with our mission at the Theater Project of presenting plays that are unique to the Pioneer Valley," he states. "It's a challenge for the company to portray this musical love story about these two sisters and the men in their lives."

Other plays slated for the season include *On Golden Pond*, *The Winds of Fashioning Time*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Gun-Shy*, *All My Sons*, and *Man of La Mancha*.

Performers for *Side Show* will be Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$13.50 to \$22 depending on the date and time of performance, and are available by visiting or calling the box office at (413) 747-7797 during its operational hours of Saturday (10 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), Tuesday/Thursday/Friday (2:00-5:00 p.m.), and Wednesday (4:00-8:00 p.m.).

ADVERTISER NEWS



IN LEFT PHOTO: April Mosher (right) from the Mary Ann Studio of Dance with Frank Root, the choreographer of this year's 'Tap-O-Mania,' sponsored by Macy's Department Store. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Mosher dances with other tap enthusiasts during 'Tap-O-Mania.'

Closing Out Its 10th Anniversary...

STAGE To Present A "Monster" Of A Musical

"It's alive!" The haunting words of Victor Frankenstein echo throughout the laboratory as the mad doctor's creation stirs beneath the plastic baggie in the shopping cart.

So begins the unusual opening of STAGE's fall production of "Frankenstein." To shock you further, it's a musical with such re-attached foot-tapping numbers as "With A Little Piece Of Mind," "I Could Get Ahead," and the heart-rendering ballad, "Monsters Need To Be Loved, Too."

There's more here than meets the reconstructed eye, as this adaptation of Shelly's classic horror story points a sutured finger at our society and the way we treat those who are "different."

This after-school drama camp runs Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on September 28th, 29th, October 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th, and 27th, with the "technical week" being November 1st through November 4th.

Camp is open to anyone ages eight to 15 who likes to sing, dance, and act. If interested, call The Red Door Theatre at (413) 786-2026 to request a registration form. The fee is \$200.

Come join us as we throw the switch on "Frankenstein - The Monstercal," premiering November 5th, 6th, and 7th.

Mary Ann Studio Dancers Part Of Macy's 'Tap-O-Mania' Event

Students from the Mary Ann Studio of Dance were off to New York City on Sunday, August 22nd. Their goal was to be among the masses of tap enthusiasts performing in this year's 'Tap-O-Mania' event sponsored each year by Macy's Department Store.

The theme for this year's Tap-O-Mania was 'Millennium Madness,' and what better music to perform to but 'Anything Goes.'

The choreographer for this madcap event was Frank Root, presently appearing in "42nd Street" in Westchester, New York.

Since workshops for the event are held all mor-

ning long, the group arrived early so that they would have plenty of time to learn the tap routine. Then at noon, the Mary Ann dancers were among the 6,676 performers who marched onto 34th Street in front of Macy's to perform the routine.

In the afternoon, the group split to do their own sightseeing, from lunch at places like the Hard Rock Cafe or the fountain at Rockefeller Center. The group enjoyed their time participating in Tap-O-Mania so much, they are already talking about going again next year ... for the 22nd ANNUAL WORLD RECORD-BREAKING.

Agawam Cultural Council Offering Trip To NYC On November 20th

The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a "Plan Your Own Trip" to New York City on Saturday, November 20th.

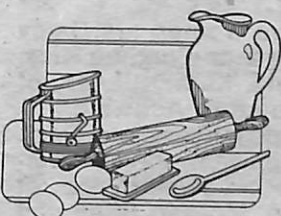
Several stops will be made along Fifth Avenue for the convenience of those attending, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rockefeller Center, the Times Square Show ticket booth, 34th Street, and South Street Seaport.

Time of departure is 6:30 a.m. and the return trip will leave New York City is at 6:30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained by sending a check made out to the Agawam Cultural Council, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Agawam Cultural Council, 933 River Road, Agawam, MA 01001. Cost of the trip will be \$21. For further information, call 786-1859.

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"THE SONGS OF WORLD WAR I," as depicted by the classic sheet-music covers pictured above, is this year's upcoming production for the Agawam Memory Lane Chorus and Melody Band. The show is scheduled to premiere on November 10th at the Agawam Middle School.

Agawam Memory Lane Chorus & Melody Band Resume Rehearsals For Nov. Show

The Agawam Memory Lane Chorus and Melody Band from the Senior Center have resumed their regular rehearsals in preparation for an upcoming concert on November 10th at the Agawam Middle School.

The program will be free and open to the public with donations being received for the Agawam Veterans' Honor Roll.

This year's production, "The Songs of World War I," will include many of the popular songs of the 1914-1918 era along with a number of lesser-known ones that reflected the many phases of the war and its effect on both the soldiers and the folks they left behind.

The concert will include some narration of the war history being brought out in the songs along with many of the "verses" of songs that are not often heard, even though the song itself was very well known.

Short prevues of some of the concert material will be presented in programs for the Agawam

Senior Center and the Suffield Senior Center during October. A repeat performance of the concert is also scheduled, which is sponsored by the Southwick Historical Society on Sunday afternoon, November 21st and will take place at Southwick High School.

Regular chorus rehearsals are held at the Agawam Center on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 and new members are always welcome to the group.

Excerpts From "A History of Popular Music In America"

Both the words and the music of "Over There" were created for the express purpose of helping the Allies win the war.

George M. Cohan was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. President Wilson referred to the son as "a genuine inspiration for all American mankind." It sold two million copies of sheet music and one million records.

By 1917, we were in it. Tin Pan Alley saw its patriotic duty and said it with music. Warfare had not yet become completely mechanized and there

were many opportunities for singing on the march and in training camps.

Specially trained military song-leaders were developed, mostly in YMCA uniforms. They had plenty of good material to work with.

From "History Of Popular Music"

Tin Pan Alley had become extremely aware of public taste and public demand. It had developed a well-oiled machine capable of manufacturing songs for every need.

Not only was Tin Pan Alley cognizant of the way in which the war had changed lives, thoughts, and emotions of the American people, but it also was in a position to give direct expression to such thoughts and emotions.

Americans were sentimental about their boys leaving for war in a foreign land - the soldiers were equally sentimental about the home and girls they left behind.

Their songs fed their patriotic ardor and stirred their martial spirit. Americans spoke their hatred of the Kaiser in over a hundred songs in which he was caned, whipped, kicked, shot, or hanged.

Applications Available For Cultural Grants

The Agawam Cultural Council has announced that applications for the 1999-2000 grants are available at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, and the Clerk's Office at the Town Hall, 36 Main Street, during normal business hours.

Applications must be received by the council by October 15th in order to qualify for funds.

Further information may be obtained by calling 786-1859.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

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Education

Playscapes Dedicated At Four Agawam Elementary Schools

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Like the song said, "It's been a long time coming," but, at last, Playscapes have been obtained and dedicated at four Agawam elementary schools: Robinson Park School, Granger School, James Clark School, and Benjamin Phelps School.

On Tuesday, September 7th at 2:00 p.m., several town officials, members of the School Committee and PTO's, teachers, and students participated in the dedication of the Playscape at Robinson Park School. From there, several of the group made their way to Granger School to dedicate the Playscape there. The next stop was James Clark School, and the final dedication was at Benjamin Phelps.

Stephanie Bertagnolli, president of Robinson Park PTO, was first to envision the value of Playscapes. She and fellow parent Margaret Timmons started investigating sources and prices about 2½ years ago. They had seen the apparatus and began calling companies that carried playground equipment.

Mrs. Bertagnolli and Mrs. Timmons began speaking with PTO's and staff from other schools to see if there might be an interest. They got ballpark figures and decided to make the project a community effort. The cost would be several thousand dollars per school. They approached the Town Council and were pledged \$2 for every \$1 raised.

Thus, the Agawam Elementary Playscape Committee formed, which included Mrs. Bertagnolli, Mrs. Timmons, Gayle Lombardini (from Robinson Park School), Melanie Sapelli (from James Clark School), Debbie Sekula (from Benjamin Phelps School), and Amanda Mattarazzo and Corrine LaFontaine (from Granger School).

Fundraising activities included a raffle, which raised \$10,000 and an auction, which also netted \$10,000. The auction was made possible through cash donations and donated products from local businesses. Each PTO donated toward the Playscapes and the final total was \$43,000, including the money voted on by Town Council.

Though the total was raised in 1997, the Playscapes had to go out to bid, due to the monetary involvement of the municipality, creating a longer wait time. However, all the Playscapes are in place and will be the sites for many fun times. Mrs. Bertagnolli spoke for the Committee when she said, "We want to thank the many businesses, parents, and individuals who helped us accomplish the goal of providing these Playscapes for the children of the Town of Agawam."

Mayor Christopher Johnson said, "It was great to finally cut the ribbon and to see the young people enjoying the Playscapes. Seeing the looks on the children's faces lets me know that all the work was worth it."



AT BENJAMIN PHELPS SCHOOL: Stephanie Bertagnolli (who got the Playscapes project started), Phelps Principal Robert Farrell, Melanie Sapelli, Sue Pettazzoni (School Comm.), Mayor Johnson, Adam Howe, Michael Paulin, Kevin Paulin, Councilor George Bitzas, Roberta Doering, and Council Pres. Donald Rheault. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



AT JAMES CLARK SCHOOL: front row - Carey Drouin (holding scissors); middle row - Pettazzoni, Doering, Parks & Rec. Dir. Christopher Sparks, Rheault, Bitzas, Clark Principal Sandra Howard, Johnson, Debbie Sekula, and Bertagnolli; back row - students from Mrs. Gage's, Mrs. Pallazzi's, and Mrs. Liptak's classes. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



JAMES CLARK STUDENTS try out the new Playscape after the September 7th dedication. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

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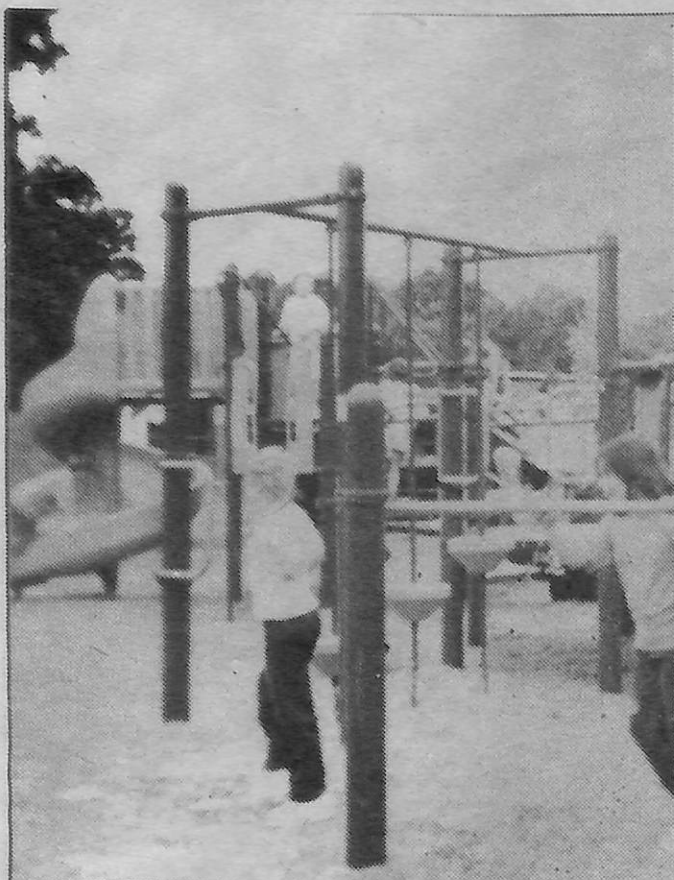
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Clark's Playscape...



THE PLAYScape at Clark School, as well as those at the other elementary schools in town, is bound to be a hit with the youngsters. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Two STCC Professors Receive 1999 Endowed Chairs

Two faculty members at Springfield Technical Community College were honored recently as the 1999 recipients of the College's two endowed chairs.

STCC Foundation president W. Geoffrey Little, President of Telitcom Development Corporation, presented the eighth annual Anthony M. Scibelli Endowed Chair to Carolyn L. Tetrault, Professor of English, and the seventh annual Joseph J. Deliso, Sr. Endowed Chair to Gordon F. Snyder, Jr., Co-Director of the Northeast Center for Telecommunications Technologies.

STCC President Andrew M. Scibelli explained that each endowed chair is given for the period of one year, and carries an award of \$3,000. The award is distributed as one-half in cash to further the recipient's professional pursuits or development, and one-half in grant for the respective academic department. The awards are symbolized by a wooden captain's chair imprinted with the STCC seal and the recipient's name.

Dr. Gail Carberry, Vice President for Grants and Development at STCC, said the Anthony M. Scibelli Endowed Chair was established in 1992, the College's 25th anniversary year, as a major effort by the Foundation board to recognize and foster faculty excellence.

A co-founder of STCC, Representative Scibelli was instrumental in passing legislation and approving funding authorizing and enabling the Massachusetts Board of Regional Community Colleges to acquire the Springfield Armory, then scheduled to be deactivated, and to establish the only technical community college in the Commonwealth.

Professor Tetrault, an Agawam resident, holds an A.B. in English from Emmanuel College and an M.A. in English Literature from Boston College. She has continued her education through studies in linguistics and Chinese at the University of Massachusetts, law studies at Western New England College School of Law, and attendance at various professional workshops and conferences.

A professor of English at STCC since 1970, Tetrault is known for her rigorous classes, through which students are well prepared to transfer to senior institutions. A few years ago, she developed a course entitled Non-Western Literary Voices which studies 20th century literature from areas such as Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia. Professor Tetrault plans to recommend that the portion of the endowed chair award presented to the department be used to further professional development initiatives of the English faculty, either through presentations on campus or through subsidized travel to conferences.

Tetrault has been extremely active in labor relations throughout her career. In the early 1970's, she was founding member of the Massachusetts Community College Council (MCCC) and later

SEE STCC - Page 42...

"Counseling Fair" To Be Held At WNEC

Current high school juniors and seniors and their families will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of over 200 colleges, universities, and technical institutes at the New England Association for College Admission Counseling Fair.

It will be held in the Alumni Healthful Living Center on the campus of Western New England College from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29th. The fair is free and open to the public. Colleges from Canada and as far away as Colorado will be represented. Last year, the fair drew over 1,250 attendees.

Western New England College, founded in 1919, is a private, independent, coeducational institution with nearly 2,000 full-time undergraduate students located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield.

Undergraduate and graduate programs are offered through the College's Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Law.

AHS' Calendar Of Sept. Events

September 17th through October 3rd: NHS volunteering at the BIG E for the Lions Club chicken barbecue.

September 22nd: Intergenerational Poetry Group (first meeting of the year; after-school in room 38, 1:50 to 2:35 p.m.).

September 24th: "Renaissance" Fall Sports GPA Ice Cream Social; deadline for entries to the Fifth Annual Berkshire Power Golf Tournament to benefit AHS athletics.

September 27th to October 1st: "Renaissance" distribution of Gold and Gold Plus cards.

September 29th: AHS Band performs at 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. for "AGAWAM DAY AT THE BIG E."

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Landscape Design And Planting

STCC - from Page 41...

served on negotiating teams as well as on state and national committees on bylaws and resolutions.

Between 1974 and 1980, she was variously Vice President and then President of MCCC, and President of the STCC Professional Association, a position she still holds. Since 1987 she has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Executive Committee of the MCCC.

For the last decade, Tetrault has served as a Faculty Marshall at STCC's commencement ceremony, also announcing names of graduating students. She has served on numerous college committees, including the quality team which drafted STCC's Shared Governance structure; she has since been an active member of Shared Governance.

The Joseph J. Deliso, Sr. Endowed Chair was established in 1993. Executive Vice President John Dunn describes Deliso as "a devoted supporter of Springfield Technical Community College since its inception, who served as the first Chair of the STCC Advisory Board from 1967 to 1981, and then became the first Chair of the STCC Board of Trustees, serving through 1985."

Gordon Snyder, a resident of South Hadley, holds a bachelor's degree in Microbiology, as well as a bachelor's degree in Medical Technology from the University of Massachusetts, and a master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Western New England College. He has taught at Springfield Technical Community College since 1984, and is department co-chair in Electronic Systems Engineering Technology, Computer Systems Engineering Technology, Telecommunications Technology, and Laser Electro-Optics Technology. He is a Microsoft certified instructor, and teaches for STCC's Center for Business and Technology.

Since 1995 he has been a group co-leader for the Bell Atlantic New England Next Step program at STCC, co-leading a faculty group from eight New England colleges in developing and presenting telecommunications courses. Snyder is the grant project leader for the Microsoft/American Association of Community Colleges Connections program. As co-director of the Northeast Center for Telecommunications Technologies, he is actively involved in developing telecommunications curriculum and in leadership activities with partner schools throughout the Northeast.

Snyder is also actively involved in STCC's partnership with Cisco Systems as well as the recent Nortel regional training center designation. He plans to use the department award from the endowed chair to purchase a 3Com Office Connect NETBuilder router.

Faculty applications for the endowed chairs are reviewed by an award selection committee of the STCC Foundation. The 11-member committee is chaired by the Executive Vice President/Academic Affairs and consists of seven faculty members, one professional staff member, the Vice President for Grants and Development, and the Executive Director of the Foundation. The recommendations of this committee is decided upon by the Executive Committee of the STCC Foundation.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, September 20th: Steamed frankfurt in roll, Boston baked beans, seasoned green beans, diced pears in juice, milk.

Tuesday, September 21st: Oven-baked, pepperoni-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and Italian dressing, chilled fruit cup, milk.

Wednesday, September 22nd: Hamburg patty in roll, steamed rice, seasoned mixed vegetables, pear macaroon, milk.

Thursday, September 23rd: Oven-roasted turkey and gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned peas and carrots, dinner roll, chocolate cake with vanilla icing, milk.

Friday, September 24th: Tuna salad sandwich or Fluffernutter sandwich, oven potato rounds with catsup, seasoned niblet corn, ice cream cup, milk.

Our classified ads cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.



KATHERINE BITZAS in front of the Parthenon (built around 479 B.C.) during her recent trip to Greece.

Katherine Bitzas Experiences Ancient History During A Summer Trip To Athens, Greece

Katherine Bitzas, an eighth-grade student at Agawam Junior High School, got a first-hand ancient Greek history lesson from her father, Agawam Town Councilor George Bitzas, this summer on the top of the sacred rock of the Acropolis in Athens.

The building is the famous Parthenon, a temple dedicated to the Goddess Athena, the protector of Athens, which was built about 2,500 years ago

with white marble.

The Parthenon is a Doric-style temple with eight columns on the ends and 17 on the sides.

The large chryselephantine statue of the Goddess Athena by Phedias stood inside the temple.

The strong earthquake in Athens two weeks ago that killed over 100 people and destroyed or damaged thousands of homes and buildings did not do any damage to this ancient building.

From Agawam High's Guidance Department...

Show Interest In What Your Kids Are Doing

by Judy Cohen
AHS Guidance Counselor

Whew! I am finally getting a breather! Something I haven't had since school opened. I mean, it's tough getting back into the swing of things. When you think about it, school goes along at a frenzied pace, then it comes to a complete stop with summer, only to become completely frenzied again in the fall.

There really is no in-between and I think that's what makes it so difficult when school resumes after the hazy, lazy days of summer. Instead of being able to rev the motor for a while, it definitely is full throttle from the beginning.

So, if I, the guidance counselor, feel this way, you can imagine how your children must feel. Not only are they going at full steam, but also, they have to deal with new teachers, new classes, making or not making a sports team, missing a friend who was in school last year, getting accustomed to new faces, etc., etc., etc. I'm tired just thinking about all the adjustments they have to make!

What can you as a parent do? Keep your cool. Many times your children will come home frustrated and out of sorts. If they seem to jump at a suggestion, or be unnecessarily grouchy, instead of reacting in like manner, sit down with your children. Speak to them quietly. As your voice lowers, so will theirs. Ask about their day. Remember, what may seem trivial to you does not appear trivial to them. Listen. Be understanding. Then, try to work out a solution to the apparent problem.

Most times, children simply feel overwhelmed and they just don't have the coping skills to look calmly at things. Try to help them get organized.

1. Do they have a desk with proper lighting, pencils, paper, etc?
2. Do they have an assignment notebook?
3. Do they have a regular time set aside for studying?
4. Do they have a dictionary?
5. Do they have a quiet place to study?

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event. Thank you...

6. Do they talk on the phone, listen to the radio, or have other diversions while they should be studying?

7. Do they arrange their assignments so that they complete the more difficult ones first?

8. Do they plan their time accordingly, so that they are not tackling their homework when they are exhausted?

9. Do they leave some time for leisure?

10. Do they feel comfortable asking you for help and having you quiz them?

11. Do they stay after school when they don't understand the material?

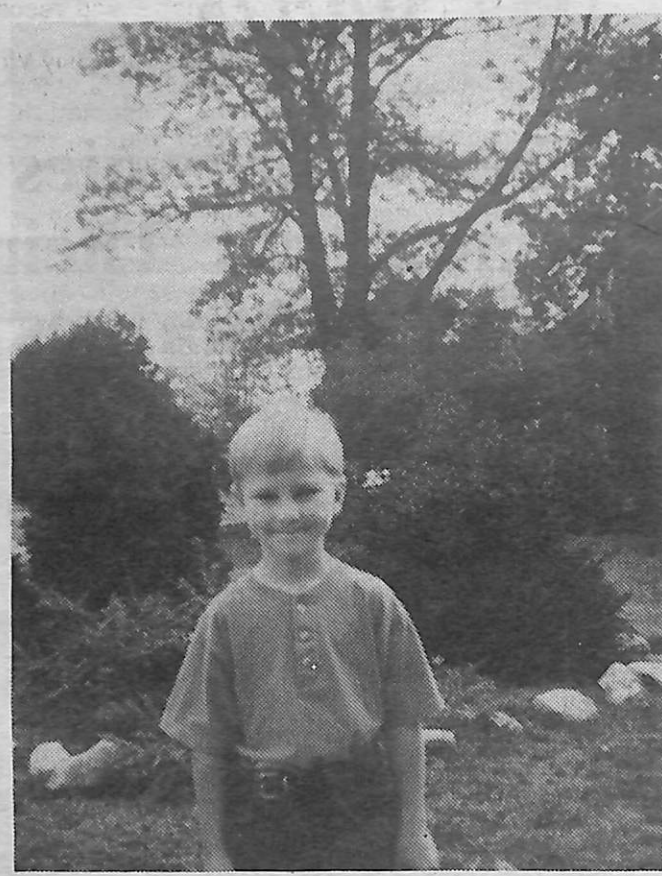
Show your children that you are interested in what they are doing. By your questions and interest, they will see that you care and that you feel that school is important. They will take their lead from you and share your feelings. They will take ownership of their problems, knowing that someone is there to help sort them out.

Do become involved. Take time to meet with teachers, to visit their school, to call their counselors if you have questions, to attend their sports events, and to listen to their concerts. When you look back years from now, you will be glad you did. All these happenings make for memories that you will continue to savor.

I know. My three boys are now three grown men, yet each time I pass by a ball field, see a kid with a backpack, or hear the lively chatter of children, I travel back in time and muse about prior events. At times, a smile comes to my face; other times, my eyes become a little misty.

I miss those times of interaction with my kids. I miss sharing in those joys and sorrows. I miss being a constant part of their lives. But, on the other hand, I embrace the fact that I was able to share so much with them and that I have such a wonderful legacy of memories!

Enjoying Their First Day Of School...



IN LEFT PHOTO: Third-grader Ryan Muller with Granger Principal Phyllis Lewis. IN CENTER PHOTO: Robinson kindergartener Ashley Sprandel holds up her name tag. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Kindergartener Ryker Verelst waits for the school bus on North Street. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

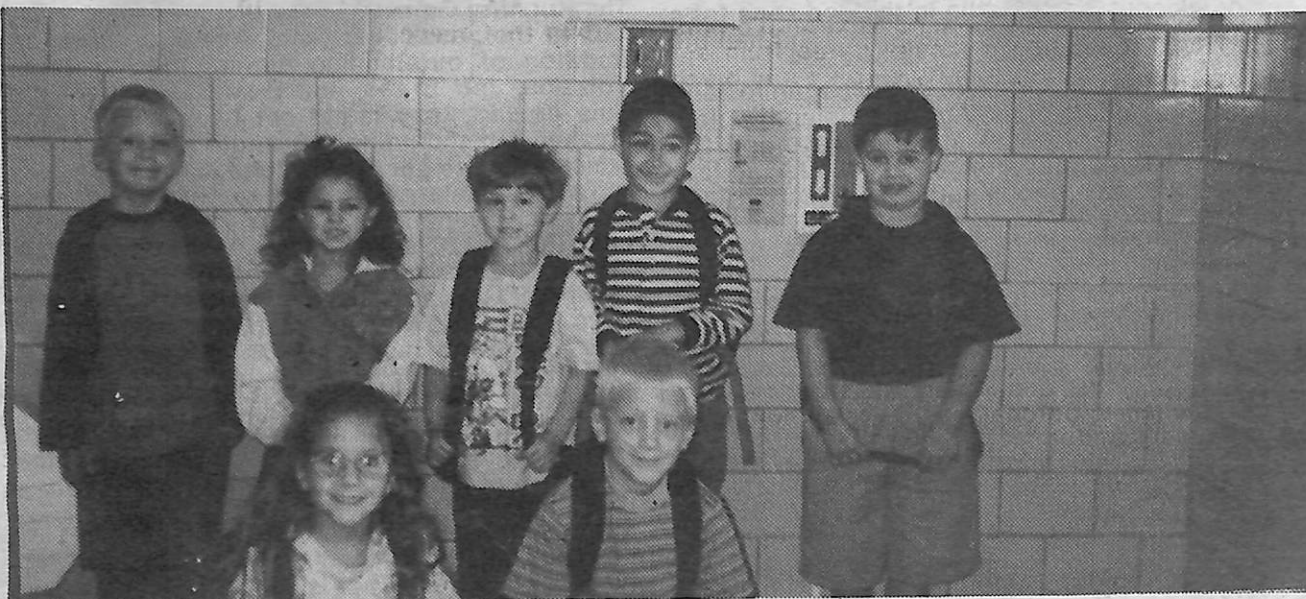
Jennifer McGuire Begins First Year At Hamilton College

Jennifer McGuire, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steven McGuire of Glendale Road in Agawam, recently began studies as a first-year student at Hamilton College.

A graduate of Agawam High School, McGuire was selected from 3,957 applicants to the college and joins a class of 502.

Hamilton College is a highly selective residential college offering its 1,650 students a rigorous liberal arts curriculum. Students are challenged to think, write, and speak critically, creatively and analytically, so that upon graduation they may distinguish themselves in both their professions and their communities.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...



AT GRANGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: front row — first-graders Kristina Cooley and Brian Hersey; back row — kindergarteners Alex Hersey, Beth Kane, Brendan Reardon, David Roirier, and Matthew White. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

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Sports

Football Scrimmage...

The '99 Brownies Demonstrate Their Pluses & Minuses

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Scrimmages, like exhibition games, are not supposed to mean all that much. Coaches and players alike will tell you that it's not the score that counts, but how different aspects of the team appear as the game goes along. Last Saturday, the Agawam High football team had a game-style scrimmage (complete with officials, a chain gang, and a small but appreciative crowd basking in the bright sunlight) against Hoosic Valley from the Adams/Cheshire part of the state.

Hoosic won, 23-13. Along the way, the Brownies, under new Coach Tad Desautels, showed some things well and others not so well. The first positive thing they did was score first, midway through the first quarter. The drive was led by senior quarterback Brian St. Jean - on whose shoulders much of the offense will be centered this season.

The team drove 60 yards on six plays. The whole thing culminated when St. Jean dropped and hit senior wideout Scott Harlin in the end zone for a seven-yard scoring strike. The extra point had the Brownies up 7-0.

On its possession, Hoosic Valley began to bang away at the middle of the Agawam defensive line. Maybe all that physical stuff inside lulled the Brownies to sleep for a moment, because as fast as you could say "snookered," a play action fake saw the Hurricanes hit paydirt on a 50-yard scoring bomb down the right sideline. The first quarter ended at 7-7.

Locals Face Stiffening Hoosic Defense

Agawam faced a stiffening Hoosic defense to start the second 12 minutes. At fourth and 11, they had to punt. The snap sailed off the tips of the punter's fingers and drew the usual crowd as it skidded out of control towards the Agawam end zone. Hoosic recovered the miscue at the Brownie 17-yard line. Two plays later, another touchdown pass, this time to the right corner of the end zone, made it 13-7, Hurricanes. The kick saw Agawam down, 14-7.

Agawam could do nothing on its next possession. A punt, off another snap that almost went awry, saw Hoosic in good field position at the Brownies' 37. A 26-yard scramble off a busted pass play had Hoosic sitting pretty on the Agawam 11.

Two plays later, on third and second, they bullied the ball over left tackle for another score. The conversion failed to convert, but the Hurricanes were up, 20-7.

Both teams played some defense until there were 37 seconds left in the half. St. Jean, along with some tough running by senior tailback Dave Moore, got Agawam to the Hoosic Valley 12-yard line. St. Jean rolled right and took the ball in to make it 20-13 after the extra point try failed. That's how it stood at the half and for the rest of the game.

Some impressive points in the game included the good control of the offense by St. Jean and the running of Moore, who at only 5'6" and 135 pounds, operates like he was six inches taller and 60 pounds heavier.

However, the offensive line was not quite in sync. Offside penalties hurt them on more than one occasion as did some infractions of the holding variety. Three interceptions didn't help the cause, either.

The defense was solid for the most part. The 50-yard bomb probably shouldn't have happened. But, senior Vic Romano played a solid linebacker. Junior linebacker Nick Beaudette had two sacks out of a total of four for the Brownies.

Staying With Fundamentals

"We wanted to stay with our fundamentals and see what needed work. The penalties don't worry me much. We have a week to concentrate on eliminating them. All in all, it was a good opportunity for the coaches to coach. We'll be up to speed by the end of the week," Desautels noted.

At the end of the week, Agawam would have its first game at home, against Greenfield High.

The freshmen, under Kirk Parker, were also in action. They lost in a scrimmage, 22-14, to the Hoosic Valley frosh. Their scores came on a 38-yard pass play from Mike Bachini to Andrew Wynne, and a 38-yard run courtesy of Sal Santaniello.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Desautels Believes Campaign Will Be Exciting...

A Preview Of The Football Season

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Football has finally rolled around again. On the practice fields of AHS, confidence runs high. The team is coming off a 4-6 '98 campaign, which (for many) was disappointing.

But the veterans have another year of experience under their helmets, there are some new faces among the assistant coaches, and Coach Tad Desautels brings renewed energy and optimism to the program.

The locals open up versus Greenfield High on Friday night at Harmon Smith Field at 7:00 p.m. for an independent bout.

The team is just about set for the season. Here's a look.

OFFENSE

Quarterback:

Senior Brian St. Jean (5-11, 165) will return at quarterback. Last year, St. Jean threw for four scores and ran for seven more. "He's the kind of kid you highlight. Brian can throw, run, and most of all he has a tremendous amount of confidence in himself and his ability to lead. He understands the scheme of our offense," Desautels explained.

That offense will consist of multiple sets, including runs, sprints, options, and long and short passes. He'll be backed up by sophomore Brian Michel and freshman Joe Clark.

The Running Game:

Over the past seven years, Agawam has had a tradition of outstanding running backs: Jason Votakis, Jeff Blews, and Brian Gallagher. This time around, they might not have a big game-breaker. But according to Desautels, they'll have a bunch who can get the job done in their own way.

"We'll be balanced and use our runners to show a different dimension," he said. Junior Tony Liquori (5'10", 170) should start. "This guy can go inside and turn the corner as well."

Others will also figure in prominently, including Dave Moore, a 5'6", 135-pound speedster who excels at getting outside; Brian Michel, who can also get outside, will see action; and senior Vic Romano (6', 170) will see action at both fullback and tailback, and can bust up the middle or get outside depending upon the situation. Another senior, Russ Smith (5'9", 160), will contribute at the fullback position.

The Offensive Line:

John Archambault, a 6', 215-pound senior, gets the nod at center. "That is the key position on our line. We ask John to do a lot in the creation of our blocking schemes," Desautels admitted.

Two juniors, Frank Ferrentino (6'1", 255) and Ryan Malanson (5'11"), will start at guard. "Both of them are excellent zone blockers. Both are very quick and very aggressive," the coach noted.

The tackle positions will be held down by senior Shawn Gloster (5'9", 185) and junior Isidoro Aquinaga (5'11", 205). "Don't let Shawn's size fool you. He has the best feet on the team. He's always perfectly balanced and in position to do his job," said Desautels. Of Aquinaga, he says, "Isidoro is a quality kid who earned the job with some hard work."

The Receivers:

Junior Lou Conte (6', 190) will be the tight end. "Lou has performed beyond our expectations. Despite being a newcomer, he picked up our offensive scheme right away," the coach said. He'll be backed up by Mike Locke, a freshman.

Scott Harlin has one wide receiver job. The veteran 5'11", 175-pound senior is, according to Desautels, "the go-to guy."

The other side will be occupied by newcomer Ian Hogan (5'11", 160) or senior Edwin Torres (5'10", 150). According to the coach, Torres is one of the better blockers on the team with the ability to get out and spring runners heading outside. Junior Chris Tedone will be a backup.

Desautels says they all have speed for the patterns they'll run. "We should see a lot of zone defense, so they'll get their catches," he noted.

Desautels On The Offense:

"We have the talent to do what we want to do, which is have an attack balanced between different varieties of the run and the pass."

THE DEFENSE

The Line:

This year, the Brownies will run out of a 4-6 formation, designed specifically to stop the run. The defensive tackles will be Frank Ferrentino and sophomore Curtis Miarecki (6', 220). Senior Juan Garcia will back up both of the starters. "We expect our defensive tackles to cover the gaps. All three of these kids can do that job very well," Desautels said.

Jerry Graves, a veteran 5'10", 210-pound senior, has the nose tackle job. "Jerry has done a great job in practice and in our scrimmages. He almost demands to be double-teamed. He has to upset the rhythm between the quarterback and the center. It's a tough assignment and he does it well," the coach noted.

Nick Beaudette, a 6', 200-pound junior, is one defensive end. Beaudette had a great pre-season, according to the coach.

In the Hoosic Valley scrimmage last Saturday, he was constantly wreaking blind-side havoc with the Hurricane offense. Aquinaga will be on the other side. John Archambault (6', 215), a senior, will back them up. "We ask them to be aggressive and defend equally well against the pass or run," Desautels said.

Linebackers:

According to the coach, linebacking is the heart of his defense. "We want everything funneled to them. They are big hitters, just the way they should be," he said.

Tony Liquori and Russ Smith will be in the middle. "Russ just flies around. He's everywhere," Desautels noted. Vic Romano will be on the outside. Also on the outside we'll see junior Phil Sampson, who shows a great deal of promise.

The Agawam defensive scheme includes a "Chief," which is a "backer who is assigned to follow the tight end wherever he goes. Senior Dennis Liptak (6', 195) occupies that position. Also battling for that spot are Mike Locke and Brian Pederson.

Defensive Backs:

Scott Harlin will be the right corner. Dave Moore will occupy the left side. They are being pressed by senior Chris Scafuri, junior Chris Tedone, and Edwin Torres. All should see some playing time.

Brian St. Jean, who was a second-team All-Western Mass. selection and an AA Conference All-Star as a defensive back last year (three interceptions), will be the free safety. "I believe in playing your best there," Desautels stressed.

The Agawam secondary will play man-to-man 99 percent of the time, according to the coach. He feels man-to-man over zone is a good way to go because kids take the one-on-one battles personally and work extra hard not to get beaten on a pass route.

Special Teams:

St. Jean will handle all or most of the kicking duties (kick-off, field goals, extra points, punting). "We've had him kick 35- to 40-yard field goals in practice, so we won't hesitate to use his leg in a game if the situation arises," the coach said.

Coach Desautels' Assessment:

"We are pretty much set for our opener against Greenfield. I'm very satisfied with our progress. I'm especially satisfied with the competition we've been seeing at so many positions. That keeps them hungry and on their game at all times. It will be an exciting season," he smiled.

Check Out Dave Rollins' Web Page

"Write to me at daverollinssports@yahoo.com," encourages AAN Sports Editor Dave Rollins. "The High School fall sports season is starting in Western Mass., as well as in New England and around the country. Let's talk about the blue chippers in our part of Massachusetts — how do you think they're going to do?"

"And, as the season progresses, we'll talk about their performances and possible possibilities for further glory in col-

lege. Maybe we can get some scouts interested in them.

"Because, as we've all noticed, most of the kids seem to be from Florida, Texas, other southern states, the midwest, and out west. There have to be some outstanding ones right here in our back yard worthy of recognition on a national scale.

"Please feel free to submit precise and updated statistics whenever you can, because I'll have mine and we can compare notes," concluded Rollins.

Field Hockey Preview...

Defense Will Be The Name Of The Game

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The biggest problem the Agawam High field hockey team had last year was their inability to score goals and their inability to keep the other team from doing the same thing.

In 16 games, they managed only seven scores (0.43 GF) while giving up 17 (1.06 GA). That whole thing translated into a 3-8-5 record. Their high scorer, Patti Zerra, now graduated, led the team with three.

This year, as varsity Coach Carla Lemnah-Warner looked over her troops, she had a prediction. "That goals against average wasn't so bad, but we'll be better on defense. I'm sure of that."

She is probably correct. The team will build outward from their goalie, Mary Elizabeth Dupelle. Mary Elizabeth is a senior now. Last year, she shared the duties with Kristen Kocot, who is also a senior. Kocot, however, is a midfielder by trade and will probably see more action at that position. Now that the job is hers alone, she should be up to the task.

Sarah Prussman, also a senior, is an experienced defender who specializes in jamming up the opponent's passing lanes. Three juniors, Corinne Butova, Nicole Dominick, and Sara Gregory, up

from the junior varsity, should also help on defense, according to the coach. "The enthusiasm is there, for sure," she said.

If the 'D' can even stay the same, can the offense upgrade their production? "I think we have the potential to do some damage in that department," she noted. Among the kids who will be counted on to put the ball in the enemy net - senior forward Amanda Sternowski, senior midfielder Jenn Harvey, and Kocot.

Stephanie McLane, a junior forward, had a score in the Brownies' opening 3-1 loss to Mohawk Regional. She could well be a dark horse in the scoring equation.

Fine Tuning Offense & Defense

Lemnah-Warner is still attempting to fine tune both the offense and the defense. It will probably take several games before the kids start to know each other and play up to their capabilities.

Others hoping to turn the team around include junior veterans (forward) Danielle Bachini and midfielder Jen Pietroniro, and another veteran, sophomore forward Alyson Nowell.

The coach will also look to senior midfielder Jenn Burke and senior forward Amy Mahoney, as well as junior Jenn Bishop, a midfielder. Other juniors include forwards Gina Castellanos and Laurie Halpy.

A 10-8 Victory Over Longmeadow...

AHS Golf Team Wins Its Third Match In A Row

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High golf team won its third match in a row Monday afternoon (September 13th), 10-8 against visiting Longmeadow High at the Agawam Municipal Golf Club.

It was a situation, according to Coach Paul Bachini, that finally firmed up his idea of just exactly where the 3-0 team is going this season.

Shawn Biebel, playing out of the number one spot, shot a 37 and won his match, garnering two points. Sophomore Bill Menard, at number two, came in with a 36 (one over) and took a point. Junior Andy Green also fired a 36 from the third hole and took three points.

Kacy Progulske, a junior, came in with a 40 and grabbed a half point. "That was a big point for him. He came into the ninth hole tied. He hung tough with a good par while his opponent took a bogey," Bachini observed.

Senior Ryan Morgan won three points with a 39. Morgan shoots from the fifth spot. Rob Woods, a senior going out of the sixth hole, struggled to a 47, but he still managed to grab a half point. "Ryan just had a bad day. He can shoot much better than that," Bachini noted.

The Importance Of "Half Points"...

The coach pointed out how important those half points are. "We got a full point out of those two halves. Take that away and give it to them, and it's a whole different ballgame. That's why it's so important to scramble for even what might seem like the smallest score."

Bachini feels he has five kids in his starting six that are capable of shooting in the 30's at all times. Now, he has to look for that sixth consistent kid. "He'll be one that fights to get in and then will say to anyone after him, 'Try and get me out!'" the coach smiled.

Bachini feels the Valley Wheel is loaded with parity. "Just about anyone can knock off anyone else," he said, then addressed his team's chances by adding, "We have experienced kids who are used to winning. We'll be in the hunt."

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New Press Box Is A Hit At AHS...



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (bottom of photo): Mayor Christopher Johnson, Frank Basile (Berkshire Power Project Manager), Athletic Director Kathy McSweeney, and varsity football Coach Tad DeSautels, along with some of Agawam High's student-athletes, visit the recently completed press box at Harmon Smith Field. Proceeds from the Annual Berkshire Power Golf Tournament (which benefits the AHS Athletic Department) provided the funding for the new press box. The Fifth Annual Berkshire Power Golf Tournament will be held on October 2nd at 8:00 a.m. at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course. Contact McSweeney for further details.



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Girls' Varsity Soccer...

Amherst Regional Visits AHS And Leaves With 2-1 Victory

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Visiting Amherst Regional spoiled the debut of new Agawam High girls' soccer Coach Laura Wray with a 2-1 win Tuesday afternoon at Harmon Smith Field. Much like the boys' game against Cathedral the previous day (a 2-1 loss), this was two games in one.

The girls came out passing in the first half, displaying a ball control game plan. They were patient, with Amy Jensen, Jen Lyman, Sheri Benton, Katie Shannon, and Dianna DiStefano leading the way both offensively and defensively.

With 10 minutes gone, both teams were playing midfield soccer. At that point, senior forward Amanda Tilden tried to get something going. She led a charge into the Hurricane zone, dished off, and headed for the net. Junior Jill Gendron, with the ball on her toe, saw Tilden break free. The pass was right on and Tilden launched from 40 feet out in front, beating the 'Canes' keeper low left. Gendron got the assist.

It was the first girls' goal under the Wray regime. Though, of course, no one knew it at the time, it would be the last, at least for that day.

For the rest of the half, Agawam showed its passing skills and worked the ball into the Amherst zone. Especially impressive in that department were Kate Shannon, Amanda Blair, Benton, and Lyman. Also showing good skills were Gendron, Gina Loudfoot, Annie Paquette, and Jensen; they kept the Amherst offense, for the most part, bogged down at midfield.

With 16 minutes left in the half, Amherst did break through. A skidding shot from the left wing had Agawam keeper Laura Bucalo racing from her goal-mouth. She went to the ground and pounced on the ball, which had trouble written all over it.

With 12:50 to play, Gendron lined one up and stroked a shot from 50 feet out in front of the Amherst net that just missed a foot to the right of the open corner. While the offense was trying, the defense was putting up an equal effort behind Lyman and Amanda Blair, whom Wray praised for her excellent play. More than once they jammed up the passing lanes and marked their assigned opponents.

Locals Get A Scare

The Brownies got a scare with 9:49 left. The Hurricanes' forward rushed the right side of the box. The ensuing shot, while not hard, was launched from 30 feet out into a screen. Bucalo, whom Wray also praised, saw just enough of the ball to field it on the short hop. Three minutes later, the ball was once again too close for comfort (in the crease this time). Senior sweeper Sheri Benton swept in and cleared what could have been another potentially dangerous shot.

There were five minutes on the clock when Amherst was awarded a free kick. The ball hooked in and glanced off the grass. Bucalo dove hard to her left for another big time save and, in the process, saved the Brownie bacon. The half ended 1-0, Agawam. They had three shots on net. Amherst recorded two.

"We just lost our intensity," was the way Wray explained her club's sudden swoon to start the second 40 minutes. With 1:58 gone, barely enough time for the faithful to settle back down on the cold aluminum seats of Harmon Smith Field, Amherst had a free kick and scored on the 25-yard drive.

Injury is one thing, insult is quite another story. Less than two minutes later, the Hurricanes did it again, making it 2-1 in their favor. Making things even worse, the Agawam offense suddenly seemed to be playing in ankle-deep mud. They could not get the ball past the midfield stripe, despite the fact that DiStefano, Lyman, Jensen, and Tilden tried mightily to lead a breakout.

A Credit To The Agawam Defense

It is a credit to the Agawam defense that for the time Amherst spent in its zone for much of the second half, the visitors didn't have several more scores. The three B's - Blair, Benton, and Bucalo - had a lot to do with it. Amherst was penetrating deeply into the AHS zone. The three B's were running down balls and stopping shots like detention was their fate if they failed to do their jobs.

One glaring statistic stood out as the halfway point of the second half arrived and departed. In 20 minutes of soccer, the Brownies did not have a single shot on the Hurricanes' net. Worse - they barely got near it.

With just under 10 minutes to go, they managed their first shot on goal. That event seemed to put a huge charge into them. They attacked relentlessly

from there on in. And Amherst, now playing not to lose, packed in its defense, kicked the ball out of harm's way at every opportunity, and watched the clock, barely escaping several excellent scoring opportunities for AHS. The strategy worked. "We picked it up too late and just ran out of time," Wray would say later.

Agawam had two second-half shots on goal for a game total of five. Amherst kicked in with seven for a total of 9. The Brownies fell to 0-1. Amherst, a denizen of the Fielding Division, went to 2-0.

At this writing, Agawam was getting ready for a huge test the following evening, against Ludlow, at Harmon Smith Field.

JV RESULTS: The JV's won their season-opener, beating the Amherst JV's, 3-0. Freshman

striker Kaitlin Sardella, in her first high school action, scored twice in the first half. Another freshman, midfielder-defender Danielle Cirillo, also seeing high school action for the first time, scored the other goal. "How about that? Two freshmen do the job for us," JV Coach Lynda Kunasek smiled. Then she added, "We did well for our first game. We just have to pick up our intensity a bit in the opening minutes."

Another first-timer, freshman goalie Vicky Taylor, registered the shutout, as sophomore midfielder Jessie Newalu and junior stopper Keegan Clark both had strong games.

FRESHMAN RESULTS: The frosh girls defeated Amherst, 2-1, in their opener. Midfielder Ellen Rannenberg tallied both goals for AHS.

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Profile...

Shawn Biebel Competes In Number One Spot For Brownies' 1999 Golf Team

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

For four years, Shawn Biebel has been a member of the Agawam High golf team. He was a second team All-Western Mass. performer as a sophomore and junior, a letterman all four years, and a captain this season.

Coach Paul Bachini has tabbed him to play out the number one spot in 1999. Recently, the senior sat down to talk about being a standout scholar/athlete at AHS.

Shawn is 17 with a birthday coming up next April 5th. He stands six feet and weighs 165 pounds.

He has spent all four years of his secondary education at AHS. Currently, Shawn is taking integrated math, AP European history, honors physics, English 12, and a study class. He is an honor roll student and a repeat member of the Renaissance Club. His favorite course is physics. Arthur Gage is his top teacher.

Right now, Shawn is looking at Western New England College for the fall of 2000, with a major in business. Wherever he goes, he'd like to give college golf a shot.

Besides golf, he is also a member of the school's defending Western Mass. Division I champion baseball team as a DH and outfielder. His most memorable sports moment was last spring's baseball championship win over Pittsfield.

He sees this edition of the AHS golf team as a

very good one. "We have more guys shooting in the 30's now," he noted, then added that with the loss of big star Chris Rousseau, all of the kids will have to step up and he feels most will because of hard work over the summer.

Shawn's favorite food is chicken parmesan with ziti.

Blue is his top hue.

A 1994 red Ford Probe, his own, is Shawn's favorite car model.

Pro golfer Ernie Els is his favorite athlete. The New England Patriots are his top team.

He likes to kick back at his house with his friends watching TV in the cellar.

He likes casual clothes from American Eagle or Abercrombie and Fitch.

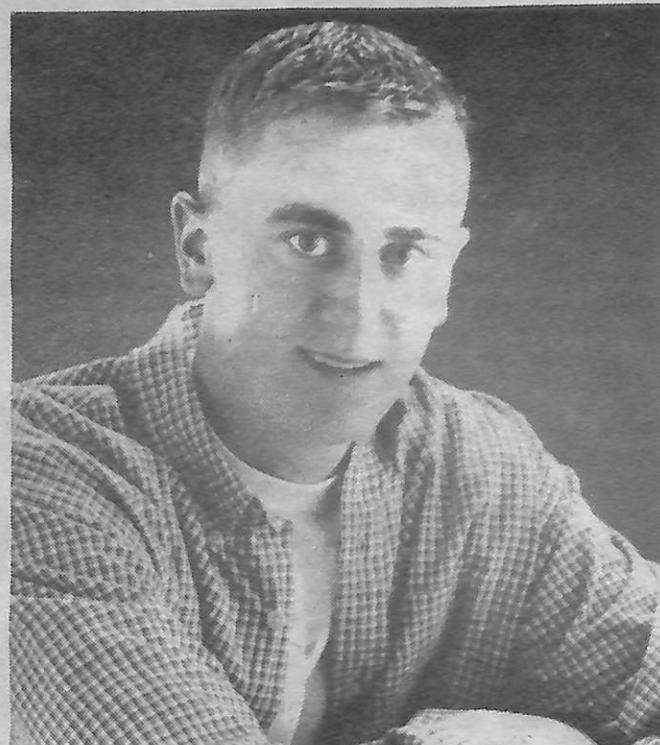
Shawn prefers alternative music. Country is definitely out.

His favorite TV show is "The Simpsons." "Dazed and Confused" is his number one movie.

His mom's name is Diane. Bill is his dad. He has a brother, Jeff, who played football for the Brownies and is now a junior at Stonehill College.

When his days at AHS are done, Shawn would like to be remembered as "a good kid who did what I was told."

Bachini calls Shawn a solid number one player who competes well against everyone he plays and is assuming a team leadership role as the captain.



SHAWN BIEBEL

Profile...

Soccer Captain Gina Loudfoot Is Optimistic About The New Season

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It's hard to miss Gina Loudfoot on a soccer field. She's usually the one that never stops running on the wing and is almost always somewhere near the play. Her hustle has earned the senior a captain's spot on the 1999 Agawam girls' soccer team. Recently, Gina took some time out to talk about her days as a Brownie scholar/athlete.

She is 17 years-old. Her birthday is April 26th. She has spent all four years of her secondary education at AHS.

Her curriculum this first semester is English 12, entrepreneurship, physics, AP math, psychology, gym, and study class. Gina is also a member of the Renaissance Club. Gym is her favorite class. Edward Merrill, who teaches psychology, is her top instructor. Gina would like to attend Westfield State, major in accounting, and play soccer for the Lady Owls.

Besides soccer, she also runs track in the spring. Soccer, however, is her favorite sport. As far as memorable sports moments, she thinks everything she has done in sports is memorable.

As far as the Brownies' 1999 soccer season, she has this to say: "I think we are going to be very good. The key is working together and we do that very well." On new Coach Laura Wray, she related, "I like her a lot. So far, it has been fun playing for her," Gina smiled.

Her favorite food is spaghetti and meatballs.

Blue is her color of choice.



GINA LOUDFOOT

A Volkswagon Jetta would be her ride.

American women's soccer star Mia Hamm is her top athlete. The Dallas Cowboys, once America's Team, is still her favorite team.

When Gina wants to kick back and relax, she says she does it at her house.

Jeans and a tank top suit her in the clothes category. She shops for them at American Eagle.

Gina's taste in tunes runs to rhythm and blues. Jewel is her top artist.

"Dawson's Creek" catches her attention on the tube. "The Sixth Sense" is her favorite flick.

Joyce is her mom's name. Her step-dad is Tom. Her father is Alan. Gina has a sister, Aimee, a former soccer star at AHS. She also has a brother, Joey, who wrestled for the Brownies and graduated in 1995. He is now an accountant. She also has two step-sisters - Amber and Renee.

Gina says she looks up to all those who have coached her.

When her days at Agawam are done, she would like to be remembered as a good person.

Coach Laura Wray's comments on Gina: "Gina has emerged as a leader and a motivator. She is always running in the games and she's been on fire in practice. I knew she had what it takes to be a captain from the first time I saw her."

Last season, Gina tallied five goals and added four assists for the Brownies.

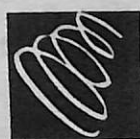
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Cross Country Action...

AHS Teams Open 1999 Season With A Tough Tri-Meet

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

On Monday afternoon, the Agawam High boys' and girls' cross country teams opened their season in a tri-meet at Forest Park against host Cathedral and Minnechaug Regional. Both teams are among the cross country elite in Western Mass.

As expected, the Brownies, just a second-year program, were shut out. "Yeah, we still have some learning to do," long-time Western Mass. cross country Coach Bill Dillon smiled.

He had six out of his 13 boys in the competition. Some were out because of injuries, others for other reasons. In all, 60 boys ran the tough Forest Park course. Agawam's best finish was 17th, turned in by junior Josh Sprague. Sophomore Ricky Gardner came in 25th, and freshman Mike DeFilippi was 32nd.

Among the Brownie girls, 14 out of the 16 on the roster ran. Veteran senior Tiffany Scaife completed the 2.9-mile course in 22:03. "That time would have been good enough to finish fifth on our boys' team," the coach observed. Another veteran, junior Valerie Siedlik, made it in 23:04 and Alisha Pisano, a senior, recorded a 23:39. "All of them were way back in the pack. But, they'll learn from this experience," Dillon smiled.

He's happy to have more numbers this season. Last year, the boys and girls only had seven runners each. "Cross country will catch on here. It just takes time for the kids to discover it," he noted. While the girls had only Scaife and Siedlik returning, the boys had five veterans back - junior Joe Case, senior Anthony Goodrow, freshman Mario Maloni, junior Steve Messina, and Sprague.

"The numbers we have now will, hopefully, mean more talent. While only five on a team can record points, the more you have, the better chance you have for someone doing that," Dillon noted.

* * * * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.

* * *

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* * *

Boys' Soccer...

Brownies Travel To Cathedral And Bow To The Perennial Panthers, 2-1

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' soccer team journeyed to Cathedral Monday afternoon and played two games. No, it was not a doubleheader, just two halves of soccer that were as different as a dollar and a donut - the result, a 2-1 loss to the Panthers, a perennial Western Mass. power.

Agawam fell to 1-1, and 0-1 in the Smith Division. Cathedral went to 1-0-1, 1-0 in the Smith.

Agawam was coming off a pretty good 4-2 win over Amherst Regional last week, although the locals were somewhat suspect in that second half as well. Cathedral was simmering over a previous double bagel tie with Chicopee. The Panthers started fast, testing the Brownies early. However, senior midfielder Barry Ward and senior defender Brad Theriaque led the defenses and threw back the attack. Aaron Gilbert, Brian Lopes, and Theriaque took the ball into the Cathedral zone. The Panthers were marking well and soon had the momentum going their way again. It paid off with 3:58 gone as senior Chris Ahlemeyer fought behind the Agawam defense and launched. The ball skidded past keeper Derek Mercadante and into the far corner from 20 feet in front.

Locals Fight Back

At that point in the game, Cathedral, though bigger than the Brownies across the board, seemed quicker to the ball. Agawam fought back grimly despite that fact. At the 34:13 mark, Lopes, Ward, and Gilbert attacked on the left wing. Gilbert, a junior midfielder, got off a shot, but he was deep in the box making the angle a little too sharp and Panthers' goalie Brenden Murphy made the save.

After a short Panther foray into the Agawam zone, which was repulsed by the Brownies' 'D,' Ward, Gilbert, and Lopes came back with some more pressure. Lopes executed a pretty pass to Ward. Ward, a captain, had the shot and an open corner from the middle of the box, but the ball hooked wide right. It was picked up and sent back out on the fly.

This time, Mike Thomas headed it towards the enemy net. The top side was open and the ball was dead center. Unfortunately, it sailed a foot over the cross bar.

With 13:25 left, both teams were using the whole field in their offensive efforts and things settled down into mostly midfield soccer. Joe DiVirgilio, Gilbert, and Jack Pearson drove into the box and Pearson managed a header, which had a notion but sailed over the center of the

cross bar from 40 feet out. A tad lower and it's tied up.

Agawam's Big Chance

Agawam's big chance came a little later, with 10:37 to go. Junior fullback Brandon Donovan was working the ball top left in the box. Ward broke down the middle and Donovan's pass led him perfectly. This time, Ward, from 30 feet out, didn't put much of a hook on his shot and it busted by Murphy into the left corner of the Panther net, knotting things at one. It was Ward's third goal of the season. Donovan got the assist.

Agawam had little time to enjoy the tie. With 5:12 to go, the Panthers' Chris Whalen headed one home off a crossing pass 20 feet in front of the Brownie net for the goal. It was a bang-bang play that probably should not have happened, according to Agawam head Coach Glenn Olson. "We just didn't mark well at all. And that's what happens."

That 2-1 score would stand until halftime. Agawam had four first-half shots on net. Cathedral came up with eight.

The second half was also the second game. Cathedral dominated 31 of the 40 minutes, keeping the ball either somewhere in the Brownies' zone or, in many instances, around the Agawam net. The Panthers, as they had done for much of the first half, were also playing physical soccer (some of which wasn't kosher), causing more than one Brownie to do a slow burn, including the faithful in the stands.

The second-half situation also prompted Olson to observe this about his team: "They were playing with more emotion than smarts. When you are more concerned with winning than sticking with the fundamentals that enable you to win, you usually don't give yourself the opportunity to win. That's what happened today."

Agawam had one second-half shot on goal for a game total of five. Cathedral managed five for a total of 13.

*** set no 1000 2/11/2000

JV's vs CATHEDRAL: The Agawam JV's beat the Cathedral JV's, 2-0. Scoring for the young Brownies came from Matt McGrath by way of Jeff Fay and Matt Ligenza from Brian Knight. "We played well because we denied them the ball. That made the difference," JV Coach Jeff Rousseau noted. The JV record, after their previous 4-2 win over Amherst, now stands at 2-0.

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At The Riverside Soccer Classic...

The U-13 Cobras Reach The Finals Of Tournament

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

When you get some of the best youth soccer teams in New England together, you have something call the Riverside Soccer Classic, sponsored each Labor Day Weekend by the Agawam Soccer Association.

It wrapped up its 15th year in Agawam September 4th, 5th, and 6th. There were 188 teams from all over New England in attendance. Agawam was represented by 18 teams from the Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League.

One made it to the finals - the U-13 Cobras, coached by Denny Marr. Marr's girls played the Easton Twisters and lost, 2-1, in a shootout in the championship game on Labor Day. "We have played them in tournaments six times. We were three and three against them up until Monday. It just wasn't our day," Marr said.

Easton scored first in regulation on a 25-foot shot. Agawam went into the intermission down by that score. The Cobras came back in the second half on a score off a penalty kick by Elise Davilli. The two teams were tied at one after regulation and the game went to overtime, and was still tied to force a shootout.

Agawam got one from Amy Lownds. Easton recorded two and that was good enough for the victory. Agawam was unbeaten going into the U-13 finals. Easton was 4-1, its only loss in the tournament coming to the Cobras in an earlier match. "Everyone on our team stepped up - Elizabeth Barker, Julie Czuprynski, Amy Lownds, Jess Lalli, Kelly Follis, Kara Powell, Jess Pokora, Danielle Glants, Tiff Manzi, Jamie Cullen, Lauren Peltier, Elise Davilli, Heather Albano, and Stacy Boisvert," Marr said.



DAVE SHAW, president of the Agawam Soccer Association, at the Riverside Soccer Classic. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

"Twisters" Post Impressive Victory Against West Side

The Agawam girls' under-11 Twisters of the Pioneer Valley Soccer League posted an impressive 5-2 victory at home September 13th against West Springfield.

Rebounding from tough losses in their previous two games, the girls used fine passing and teamwork throughout the game, building a 3-0 first-half lead.

Stephanie Obue scored the first goal for the Twisters, assisted by Cassie Ashwell's sizzling pass. Cassie then put the ball in the net herself, with an assist by Megan Lalli, and Stephanie scored once again to finish off the first-half scoring.

Cassie Ashwell scored again in the second half, teaming up with Stephanie Obue, and the final Twisters' goal came on a smooth shot by Christina Bertrand, who was given a fine assist by Kaitlin Outhuse.



COACH DENNY MARR WITH HIS "Cobras," the U-13 girls who reached the finals of the recently held Riverside Soccer Classic. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.



JOANN MCGEOGHAN served as one the site directors during the Riverside Soccer Classic, which took place over the Labor Day Weekend (September 4th, 5th, and 6th). Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

W. Spfld.-Agawam Elks To Present "Soccer Shoot"

The West Springfield-Agawam Lodge of Elks No. 2174 will present a Soccer Shoot on Saturday, September 25th (rain date: September 26th) at the Elks Lodge, 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Age divisions for boys and girls are seven and under; eight to nine years-old; 10 to 11 years-old; and 12 to 13 years-old. Age is determined by the age of the contestant as of August 1, 1999. Birth or Baptismal certificate is required as proof of age.

NO equipment is necessary other than proper attire (i.e., jersey or shirt, shorts or pants, socks and footwear). Soccer balls donated by West Side Sports Shop.

FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE FINISHES WITH TROPHIES TO BE AWARDED TO BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS IN EACH AGE GROUP.

The first-place winners in each age group are eligible to advance to the District Shoot, which will be held at the Holyoke Lodge of Elks on October 2, 1999.

For more information, contact John Davis, Chairman, at 746-8318.

Chris Rousseau Helps Siena Golf Team Win

Led by individual medalist Chris Rousseau of Feeding Hills, the Siena College men's golf team posted a two-round score of 39-over par 615 and won the 25-team Division I Cornell/Colgate Golf Invitational.

The invitational finished up on Sunday afternoon, September 12th at the always challenging, Seven Oaks Golf Course in Hamilton, New York.

A freshman, Rousseau, in his college debut, fired an even-par 72 in the first round on Saturday, Sept. 11th to take a two-stroke lead in the individual standings. It was the former Agawam High School star's first-ever round of play at Seven Oaks Golf Course.

A one-over par 73 in Sunday's final round secured first-place individual honors at one-over par 145. When asked for a comment after returning back to the Siena campus, Rousseau had this to say, "I can't complain. The team won and I won."

The Saints led after Saturday's first round and held off a furious challenge from Ottawa University to win the team competition by four strokes. Indiana University finished in third place at 44-over par 620, followed by Colgate and Villanova, respectively. In 1998, the Siena team placed 25th at the Cornell/Colgate Invitational.

Other notable finishers from Siena included sophomore John Picolo from Albany, New York. Picolo tied for 22nd place with a 14-over par 158. Freshman Luke Esposito of Fayetteville, New York tied for 28th place at 15-over par 159, and freshman James Ohlsen of Saratoga Springs, New York tied for 32nd place at 16-over par 160.

Best local news with us,
each and every week...

* * *

On Saturday, September 11th...

Berube Wins 3rd Race Of Season; Miller Takes 1999 Modified Title

Carroll Wins 4th Consecutive Pro Stock Championship At Riverside

Without question, 1999 has been Ricky Miller's year at Riverside Park Speedway. With his fourth-place finish in last Saturday night's (September 11th) 51-lap NAPA Modified feature, the Agawam driver became the newest track champion in Riverside Park Speedway's glorious history.

Up front, Dave Berube of Bristol, CT, took down his third win of the season ahead of Ted Riggott, Brad Hietala, Miller, and Rob Summers. Miller's outstanding performance in 1999 included four NASCAR Winston Racing Series feature wins, the Budweiser Triple Crown Series Championship, and his first career NASCAR Featherlite Modified Series victory on September 4th. Last Saturday night's 51-lap distance commemorates Riverside Park Speedway's 51-year auto racing history.

In the Teddy Bear Pools Pro Stock division, Barry Gray of Belchertown, MA, took down his second feature win of the year, while second-place finisher Eddy Carroll III of Longmeadow, MA, won his record-setting, fourth consecutive Pro Stock championship. Carroll is the grandson of Ed Carroll, Sr., the founder of Riverside Park. Rounding out the top five in the Pro Stock division were Tim Strojny, Les Hinckley III, and Rich Vasseur.

Standout rookie Jim Larsen of East Hartland, CT, won his second race of the year in the 30-lap Teddy Bear Pools Truck feature. Taking down championship honors for the first time in his career was Ernie Tarca of East Granby, CT. Mike Salmond came up short in his championship bid, despite an impressive second-place finish. Ted Chalmers was third in the feature, followed by Brian Merchant and Rob Valerio in fifth place.

* * * * *

Congratulations to all of Riverside Park Speedway's 1999 champions!!!

* * * * *

The "Independent" Agawam Annihilators Open Their Season

The "Independent" Agawam Annihilators had their first game of the season against South Hadley. The game was pretty much even from both sides.

The Annihilators were missing quality players such as Andrew King, Ryan Harlow, and Nick Alvanos. At halftime, the score was 0-0, but South Hadley had a nice shot from the 18-yard line to make it a 1-0 game.

Mat Footit had some outstanding saves throughout the game. Defense was strong with Ryan Evans, Mike Santos, and Kevin Biena. Halfbacks Sean Deglis and Derek Pelley had lots of shots on goal, but South Hadley's goalie was too strong.

Seamus Moran had a nice pass to left wing Kevin Malloch, who just chipped the ball in to make it a 1-1 game. Tommy Mercadante had some nice passes to help the Annihilators keep the ball in South Hadley's zone. Ryan McGuire helped the forwards with good dribbling skills, as Ryan and Jordan Buiso gave it their all, but the game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Last year, the Annihilators lost one game throughout their season, to Palmer. Saturday was the day to play Palmer. The Annihilators were on fire showing passing and dribbling skills. A nice corner kick from Kevin Malloch to hit Sean Deglis in the right spot to score the first goal of the game, but Palmer came back to tie the game at 1-1.

Ryan Harlow and Jordan Buiso, along with excellent passing skills from Nick Alvanos to Kevin Malloch to score the second goal of the game. Seamus Moran and Derek Pelley proved that halfback is their position. The kept the ball out of our zone.

Fullbacks Kevin Biena and Ryan Evans, along with Mike Santos, proved their much-needed skills. Tommy Mercadante showed strong effort to help Jordan Buiso score the third goal of the game. Mat Footit had a great first half, letting only one goal in.

Playing with no subs throughout the second half, Andrew King played fullback and halfback to help keep the Palmer team away. Kevin Biena had a strong second half in goal. The Annihilators finally felt undefeated as they beat the team they needed to.

Agawam's Independence against Ludlow proved their enthusiasm. The Annihilators started off with a great 18-yarder from Kevin Malloch, who also had two goals in the game.

The goals kept coming as Andrew King had his first hat trick of the game. Fullback Kevin Biena scored on a nice indirect kick. By halftime, 5-0 was the score.

Ryan Harlow and Jordan Buiso had great assists to give Nick Alvanos his first goal of the season. Fullback Ryan Evans charged the ball with great effort.

Tommy Mercadante had some nice shots on goal. Mike Santos played outstanding defense and offense throughout the game. Seamus Moran, as usual, showed his exceptional skills.

Sean Deglis made it tough for Ludlow's offense to come forward. Derek Pelley, playing halfback and fullback, scored from outside the 18-yard line. Mat Footit had his first shutout of the season. The game ended with an 8-0 win and proved the independence of the Annihilators is the way to be!

— Check our classified ads —



**Golf Tip Of
The Week...**
Compiled by
Jim Modzelesky,
PGA
Oak Ridge Golf Club,
Feeding Hills, MA

Up The Middle...

Do you play softball or baseball? If so, you're probably familiar with this tactic: hitters will aim right over second base so that the ball, hit between the second baseman and shortstop, will fall in safely for a hit.

You can improve the accuracy of your shots by thinking of the batter's tactic when driving a golf ball. Imagine that your ball is teed up on home plate, and then focus on driving the ball right up the middle.

It's all but impossible to hit a softball or baseball over second without keeping the bat traveling down the target line. And that's exactly what you want to do when driving a golf ball.

Carew Hill Girls' Club Golf Tourney To Be Held At Crestview

Crestview Country Club in Agawam is the site for the 14th Annual Carew Hill Girls Club golf tournament and area women are invited to come and play on Monday, October 4th.

Play will begin with an 8:30 a.m. Shotgun. Breakfast, greens fees, carts, lunch, gifts, and prizes are included.

Women golfers interested in playing should contact Ellen Leritz at (413) 596-6527 or Cathy Thompson at (413) 567-6112.

Carew Hill Girls Club is located at 481 Carew Street and works to help young girls of all backgrounds to acquire the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders.

The club accomplishes this by offering them developmental programs to enhance their social, emotional, and physical well-being in a warm and caring environment.

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* Age is determined by the age of the contestant as of August 1, 1999. Birth or Baptismal Certificate required as proof of age.

NO equipment is necessary other than proper attire (i.e., jersey or shirt, shorts or pants, socks and footwear).

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GIRLS AND BOYS IN EACH AGE GROUP

The first-place winners in each age group are eligible to advance to the District Shoot, which will be held at the Holyoke Lodge of Elks on October 2, 1999

For more information, contact John Davis,
Chairman, at 746-8318

NOTE: SOCCER BALLS DONATED BY WEST SIDE SPORTS SHOP





Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

News From The Division Of Fisheries And Wildlife

Extra Antlerless Permits - Extra permits for Deer Management Zone 10 will go on sale beginning Monday, October 4th at Mass Wildlife offices in Acton, West Boylton, and Westboro.

Extra Zone 10 permits are being made available a week prior to the traditional opening day of archery season sale date as the 1999 season will open on the October 11th Columbus Day holiday in Zones 9-14.

Extra Zone 9 permits will be available beginning Monday, November 1st, again from Mass Wildlife offices in Acton, West Boylton, and Westboro. An original license and a \$5 permit fee are required to purchase permits. Permits may be purchased for friends or relatives as long as an original license is presented for each permit requested.

Zone 14 (Nantucket) permits will be sold over the counter in Westboro or at the Nantucket Deer Check Station starting October 4th. Zone 14 permits will also be available through the mail by sending the \$5 fee and a COPY of a valid 1999 Massachusetts hunting or sporting license to: Nantucket Permit, Mass Wildlife, Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westboro, MA 01581.

Only one permit per license will be issued. An additional permit may be purchased at the Nantucket Check Station each time a deer is brought in and officially tagged.

The annual drawing of winning antlerless permit numbers will be held in late September. The time and place will be announced.

FISH REPORTS

Saunders Marina in Southwick reports largemouth action picking up a bit. The recent rainfall has helped to raise the levels a little and the "shock" of the weed control effort seems to be over.

Bass fishing in the Turners Falls area of the Connecticut River is yielding some nice sized smallmouth bass as well as some nice largemouths.

Fall stocking will be getting underway, and hopefully, some of our streams will have some much-needed water.

SALT WATER

Capt. Brad Glas of the Hellcat out of Groton reports the night action on blues at Alligator Ledge have been in his words a total "bail job." Anglers are into constant action with slammer-sized blues and some very respectable stripers.

Offshore action on tuna according to Capt. Greg Mercurio of the Yankee Captains, has been very productive. Recent offshore trips have yielded some great catches of yellowfin.

Striper and bluefish action closer to home shows the Canal as being spotty, but the outer Cape, Block Island, the Rhode Island breechways, and beaches are giving up some quality striper action.

Keenan's Office Has "Westfield River User's Guide"

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to share with his constituents a user's guide to the Westfield River. Anyone interested in obtaining a *Westfield River User's Guide* should contact Rep. Keenan's office at (413) 786-4545.

The guide contains a map of the area, and a list of recreational activities such as cultural events, museums, public parks, and historic and scenic sites along the river. There is also a list of places where camping, canoeing, and bicycling opportunities can be found.

The Westfield River was the first in Massachusetts to be designated "Wild and Scenic" by the National Park Service, and its beauty is shared by the 27 communities within its basin.

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Brett Gearing (Waryasz Tournament committee member), scholarship recipients Jason Flood and Alison Jackobek, and Brian Freeman (Waryasz Tournament committee member).

Second Annual Craig O. Waryasz Golf Tournament Is A Success

The Second Annual Craig O. Waryasz Golf Tournament was held at Shaker Farms Country Club on July 30th. The tournament was an enormous success with a great day for golf and dinner to follow. It was fitting to see a repeat of the winning foursome from last year, including Richard Waryasz, Jack Schroeder, Jeff Jochim, and Ronald Langley.

The proceeds from the tournament go towards the Craig O. Waryasz Scholarship Fund, which provides Agawam students with an opportunity and aid to fund their education. This year, the scholarships were given to Alison Jackobek and Jason Flood, two students who showed exceptional skills both scholastically and athletically. The scholarship committee would like to wish the recipients success in their future endeavors.

This is all made possible through the generosity

ty and help of area business which provide financial support and raffle prizes, as well as the participants in the tournament.

For this, the tournament committee would like to thank the following:

Westfield Savings Bank, Langone Plumbing and Heating, The Union-News, United Innovations, Hu Ke Lau, Riverside Park, The American Hockey League, Peter Pan, Luigi's Pizza N' Pasta, Larry's Mobil, Channel 40, New England Door Closer, ILS, West Springfield Auto Salvage.

Chicopee Patrolman's Union, Agawam Opticians, EPCO Business Forms, Milton Bradley, Independent Fence and Iron Works, Ayre Real Estate, Thiro U.S.A., Costigan Paint, Merrill Lynch - Miles/Affeldt Group, Evergreen Landscaping, L.E. Meyers, E.B's Westfield/Chicopee, and Luigi's Auto Body.

Pee Wee Warriors Defeat Spfld. South

The Agawam Pee Wee Warriors (white squad) thundered past Springfield South in the season-opening game by a score of 30-12.

The awesome defense virtually shut down Springfield's offense, led by Little Hog lineman Nick Sleich and Patrick McKeever. The defensive ends and backs were the key to stopping the outside run and shutting down the passing game.

The unstoppable offense scored four out of the five times they had the ball. On the first offensive play, Rashad Wright scored with a 35-yard run. The two-point conversion was turned in by James Mackin. Rashad Wright also scored on the next

possession with an eight-yard run. The conversion was turned in by quarterback Brendon McNeish.

After Springfield keyed on Rashad Wright, the other horse was let out of the stable; James Mackin scored on a 20-yard run with the conversion again going to Brendon McNeish.

On the last offensive series, James Mackin scored from 42 yards out by straight-arming and weaving through the Springfield secondary. Once again, the Little Hogs were the key to the Warriors' success.

The Warriors were cheered on and motivated by the very talented Pee Wee cheerleaders.

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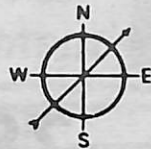
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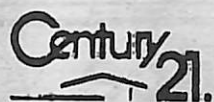
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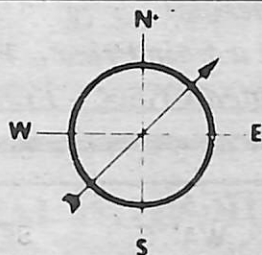
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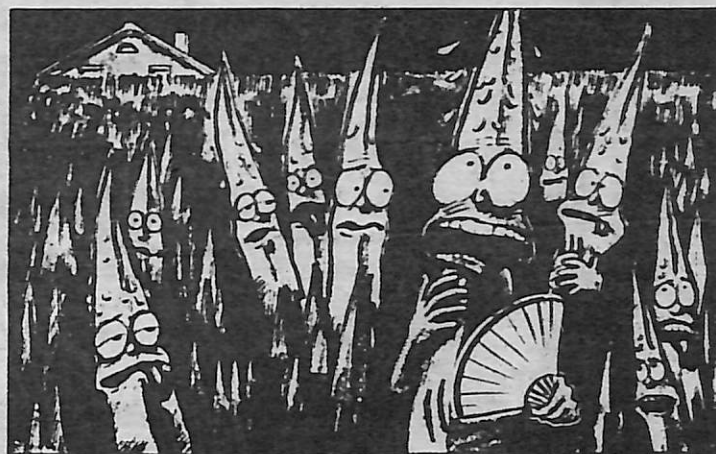
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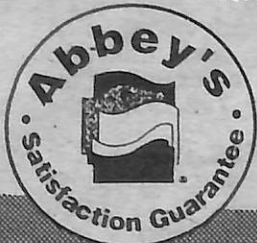
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Mon.-Wed. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.; Thurs. & Fri. 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.; Sat. 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

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America's choice in floor fashions since 1958.



LABOR DAY Celebration SALE

**NO DOWN PAYMENT,
NO INTEREST TILL
MARCH 2000!**

ALL Mannington Sheet Vinyl on SALE NOW!

- Silver Ceramica
- Our Best Seller!
- Same \$16.65 sq. yd.

\$1.85 Sq. Ft.

Ends September 10th

- Stock Vinyl Closeouts!

Starting At **75¢** Sq. Ft.

Wood Floors

- 3/8" - 3 ply engineered oak prefinished in 5 colors.

\$3.09 Sq. Ft.
NOW sold in 31 sq. ft. crts.

- 2-1/4" solid oak plank country wood plus - traditional

\$2.99 Sq. Ft.
NOW sold in 19.7 sq. ft. bundles

- Birch 3-1/4" wide celtic

\$3.99 Sq. Ft.
NOW sold in 20 sq. ft. per crts.

Super Carpet Savings

- Paradise Berber
- 52 oz., 9 colors

Installed with heavy 6 lb. rebond padding!

\$2.20 Sq. Ft.
NOW

MUST SEE!

- Embraceable Plush
- 65 oz. of sink your toes into plush carpet

Installed with heavy 6 lb. rebond padding!

\$2.59 Sq. Ft.
NOW

- 12' or 15' width Berber with or without pattern

Installed with heavy 6 lb. rebond padding!

\$1.89 Sq. Ft.
NOW

Ceramic Tile Showcase Center!

Over 500 different floor and wall tiles on display now. All on special savings now through September 18th

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- 15 year wear warranty
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\$3.39 Sq. Ft.
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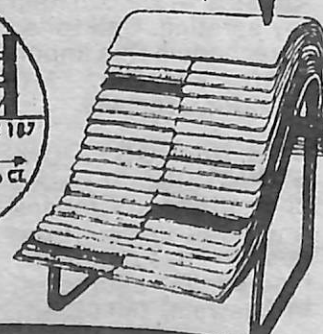
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Carpets That Matter!

Made from the strongest & most stain resistant fibers.

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CARPET

VINYL

Hard wood

CERAMIC TILE

Laminate